諸星大二郎

ゴースト・ハンターものというのは、外国の怪奇小説の一つの類型だそうでこれをできるだけ日本風に、かつSF風に仕上げてみました。第1話で「古事記」を扱ったのが、古代史に興味をもち始めたきっかけです。稗田礼二郎の名は、「古事記」の暗誦者・稗田阿礼からとったものです。

JUMP SUPER COMICS

妖怪ハンター

諸星大二郎

妖怪ハンター

諸星大二郎
48

集英社

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ジャンプ
スーパー・コミックス

好評発売中!!

- ゼロの白鷹 全4巻 本宮ひろ志
- 武蔵 全3巻 本宮ひろ志
- ビッグガン 全1巻 本宮ひろ志
- 暗黒神話 全1巻 諸星大二郎
- 妖怪ハンター 全1巻 諸星大二郎
- 孔子暗黒伝 全2巻 諸星大二郎
- 徐福伝説 全1巻 諸星大二郎
- アダムの肋骨 全1巻 諸星大二郎
- 熱風の虎 全5巻 村上もとか

- ブルーシティー 全2巻 星野之宣
- はるかなる朝 全1巻 星野之宣
- 巨人たちの伝説 全1巻 星野之宣
- 海の牙 全1巻 星野之宣
- GO AHEAD!! 全1巻 江口寿史
- いずみちゃんグラフィティー 全4巻 金井たつお
- おれはシャチ 全2巻 金井たつお
- ウルフにKISS 全2巻 作 寺島優 画 小谷憲一
- 鉄のドンキホーテ 全2巻 原哲夫
- ゴージャスアイリン 全1巻 荒木飛呂彦

- Zとうちゃん THE No.1 全1巻 うすね正俊
- 桂正和コレクション VOL.1 桂正和
- おみそれ!トラぶりっ娘 全1巻 あろひろし
- とっても少年探検隊 全1巻 あろひろし
- すもも 全1巻 天沼俊
- OH!少年少女 全1巻 河島原案 北京G.L.P
- 夢語り 全1巻 黒岩よしひろ
- はなったれBoogie 全1巻 一色まこと
- 甲子園の狼 全1巻 竜崎遼二
- ラジカル16 全2巻 ひすわし

ジャンプ
スーパー・コミックス

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JUMP SUPER COMICS

妖獣ハンター

諸星大二郎

妖獣ハンター
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JUMP SUPER COMICS

YOKAI HUNTER

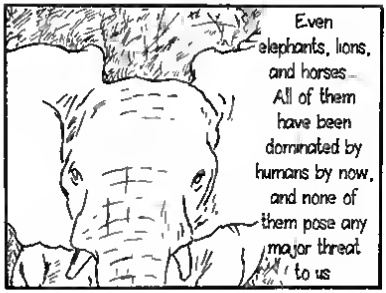
BY MOROHOSHI DAIJIRO

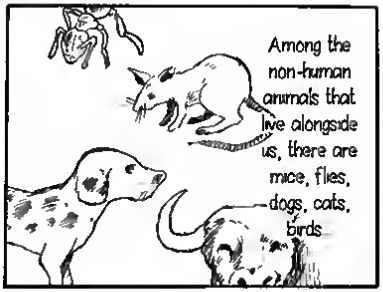
Yokai Hunter

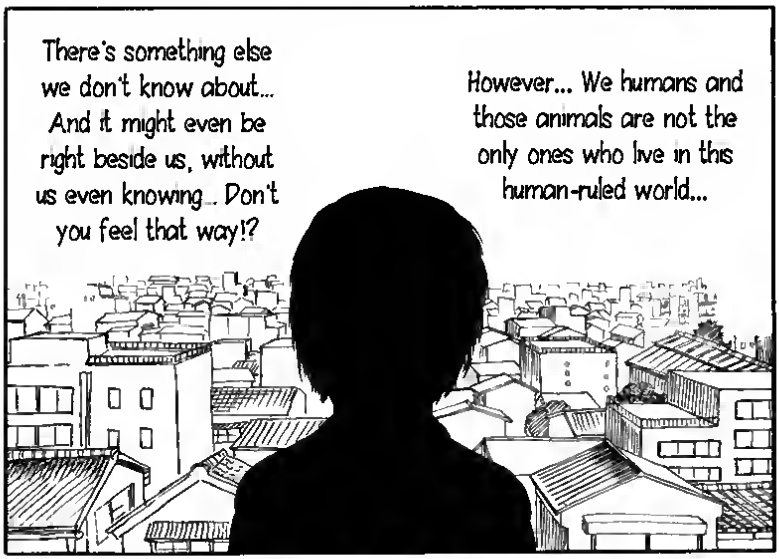
Chapter 1: The Black Investigator
Chapter 2: Red Lips
Chapter 3: The Tree of Life
Chapter 4: The Masked Face in the Dark
Chapter 5: The Dead Return
The Living City

Chapter 1:

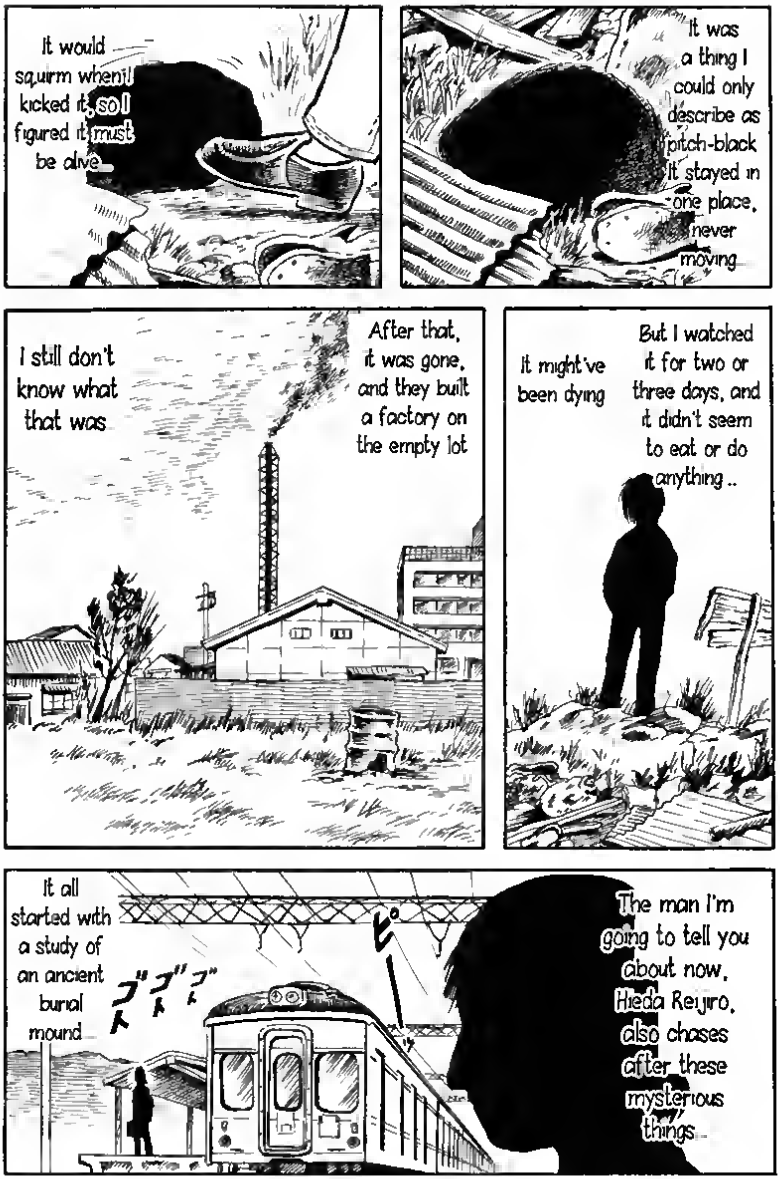
The Black Investigator

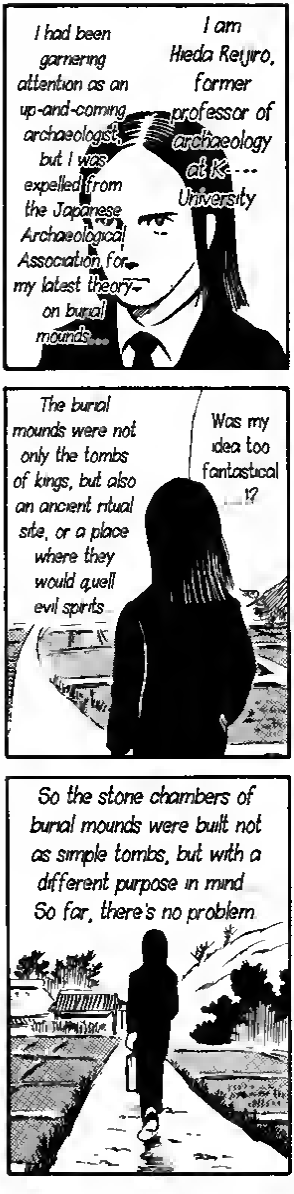

Even elephants, lions, and horses... All of them have been dominated by humans by now, and none of them pose any major threat to us


Among the non-human animals that live alongside us, there are mice, flies, dogs, cats, birds...

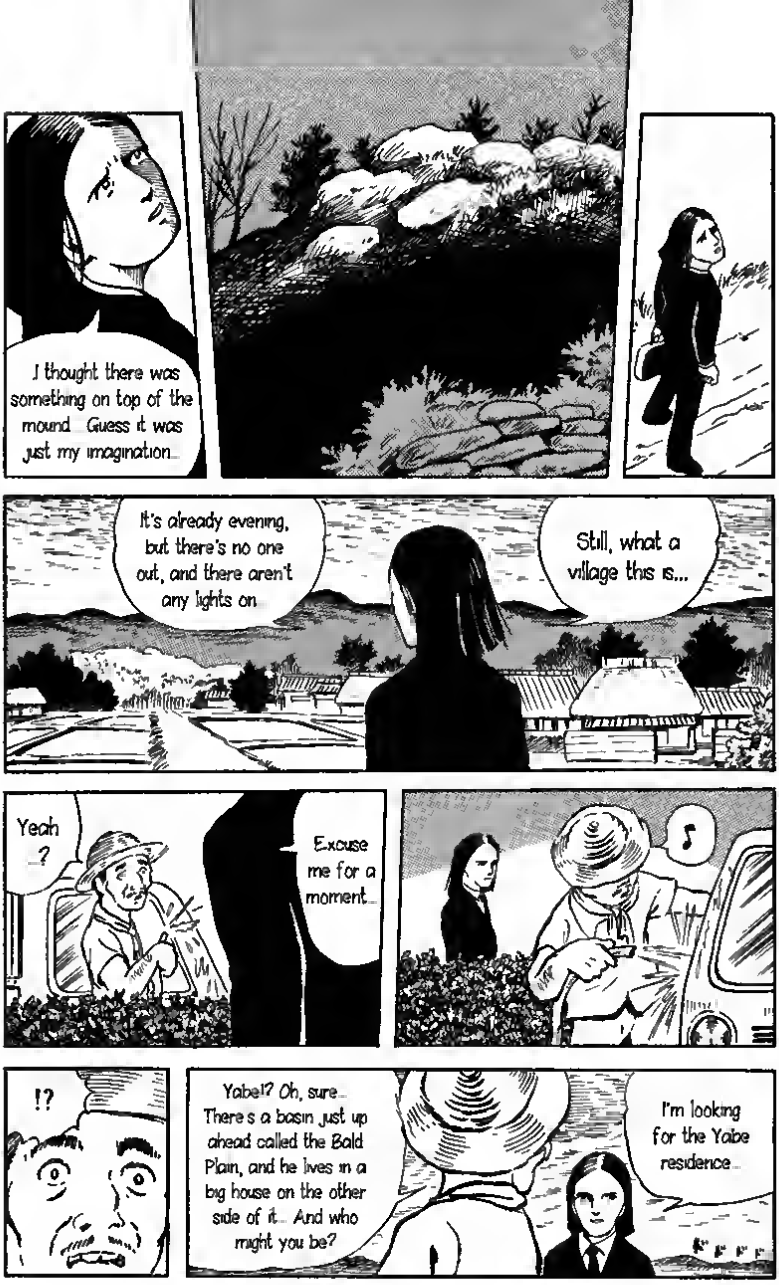

There's something else we don't know about... And it might even be right beside us, without us even knowing... Don't you feel that way!?
However... We humans and those animals are not the only ones who live in this human-ruled world...

For example, a while ago, there was something strange in an empty lot close to where I lived...


It would squirm when I kicked it, so I figured it must be alive...
It was a thing I could only describe as pitch-black. It stayed in one place, never moving.
I still don't know what that was.
After that, it was gone, and they built a factory on the empty lot.
It might've been dying.
But I watched it for two or three days, and it didn't seem to eat or do anything...
It all started with a study of an ancient burial mound...
ゴゴゴ
ピー
The man I'm going to tell you about now, Hieda Reijiro, also chases after these mysterious things...


I am Hieda Reijiro, former professor of archaeology at K--- University
I had been garnering attention as an up-and-coming archaeologist, but I was expelled from the Japanese Archaeological Association for my latest theory on burial mounds...
The burial mounds were not only the tombs of kings, but also an ancient ritual site, or a place where they would quell evil spirits
Was my idea too fantastical ...!?
So the stone chambers of burial mounds were built not as simple tombs, but with a different purpose in mind
So far, there's no problem
P-------
Prefecture, Kyushu
So this is the village of Hiruko...

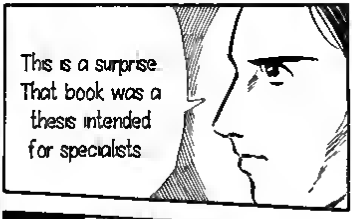
Or if I were to tie them to the legends of yokai that remain all over Japan...
I would not be wrong if I insisted that the patterns in the stone chambers of ornamented burial mounds were spells to quell these evil spirits.
Ancient Ruins of Hiruko Burial Mound
I guess I can't blame them for treating me like a madman.
But... When I suggested this was proof that yokai actually existed...
It said that the stone chamber of Hiruko Burial Mound had no traces of a sarcophagus
Amidst all of this, I received a letter about the book I had published, "The Magical Patterns of Burial Mounds"
This burial mound might just prove my theory.
Not only that, but this burial mound was closely linked to the yokai legends of the region.


I thought there was something on top of the mound... Guess it was just my imagination...
It's already evening, but there's no one out, and there aren't any lights on...
Still, what a village this is...
Yeah...?
Excuse me for a moment...
!?
Yabe!? Oh, sure... There's a basin just up ahead called the Bald Plain, and he lives in a big house on the other side of it... And who might you be?
I'm looking for the Yabe residence...

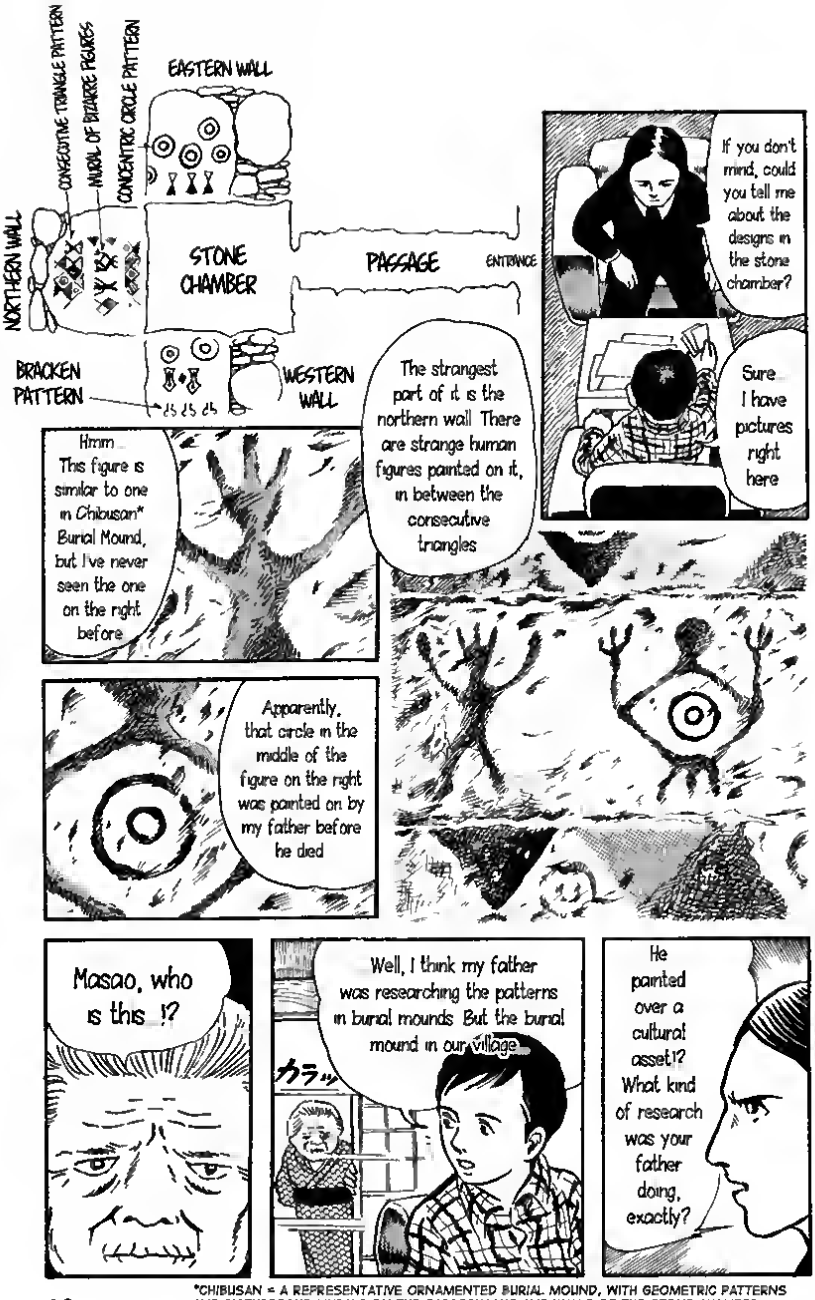
What's that rumbling...!?
ドドド

Yes...
Are you the Yabe Masao who wrote me that letter?

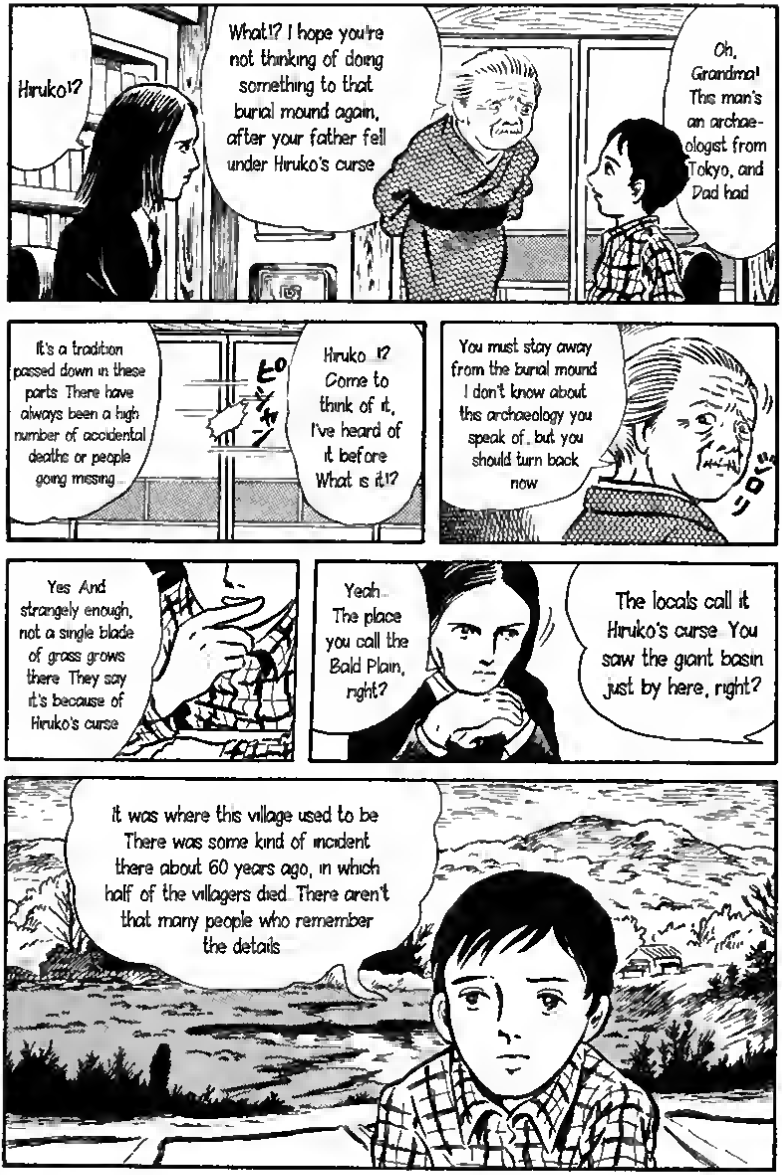
My father entered the stone chamber alone at midnight, one month ago. By the time they found him the next morning, his head was gone...
His head was gone...!?
Yes... But based on his clothes and his physical features, they knew he was my father...

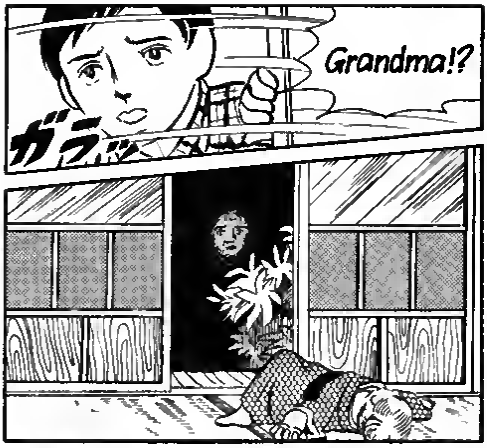

This is a surprise... That book was a thesis intended for specialists

Where is your father now...!?
My father was a local historian...
He died in the stone chamber of the burial mound...


EASTERN WALL
CONSECUTIVE TRIANGLE PATTERN
MURAL OF BIZARRE FIGURES
CONCENTRIC CIRCLE PATTERN
NORTHERN WALL
STONE CHAMBER
PASSAGE
ENTRANCE
BRACKEN PATTERN
WESTERN WALL
If you don't mind, could you tell me about the designs in the stone chamber?
Sure... I have pictures right here
The strangest part of it is the northern wall. There are strange human figures painted on it, in between the consecutive triangles
Hmm... This figure is similar to one in Chibusan* Burial Mound, but I've never seen the one on the right before
Apparently, that circle in the middle of the figure on the right was painted on by my father before he died
Masao, who is this!?
Well, I think my father was researching the patterns in burial mounds. But the burial mound in our village...
カラッ
He painted over a cultural asset!? What kind of research was your father doing, exactly?

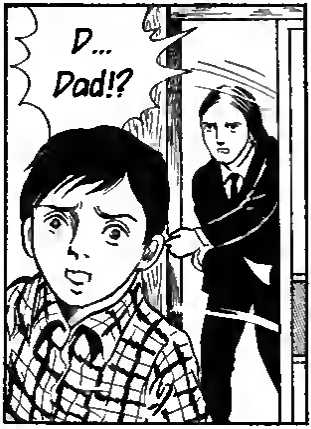
*CHIBUSAN = A REPRESENTATIVE ORNAMENTED BURIAL MOUND, WITH GEOMETRIC PATTERNS AND PICTURESQUE MURALS ON THE SARCOPHAGUS AND WALLS OF THE STONE CHAMBER. IT IS NEAR SEIFUKU TEMPLE, IN YAMAGA, KUMAMOTO. THE BURIAL MOUND IS KEYHOLE-SHAPED. THE INTERIOR IS A TUNNEL-STYLE STONE CHAMBER

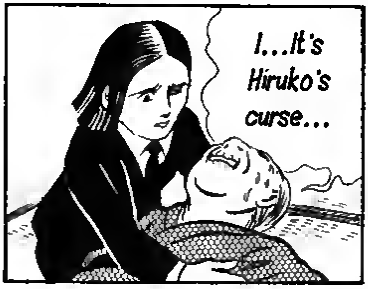

Hiruko!?
What!? I hope you're not thinking of doing something to that burial mound again, after your father fell under Hiruko's curse
Oh, Grandma! This man's an archaeologist from Tokyo, and Dad had
It's a tradition passed down in these parts. There have always been a high number of accidental deaths or people going missing...
Hiruko...!? Come to think of it, I've heard of it before. What is it!?
You must stay away from the burial mound. I don't know about this archaeology you speak of, but you should turn back now.
Yes. And strangely enough, not a single blade of grass grows there. They say it's because of Hiruko's curse.
Yeah... The place you call the Bald Plain, right?
The locals call it Hiruko's curse. You saw the giant basin just by here, right?
It was where this village used to be. There was some kind of incident there about 60 years ago, in which half of the villagers died. There aren't that many people who remember the details.

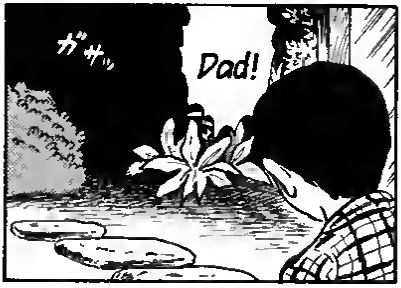

ガラッ
Grandma!?

GYA
AAA
AAA
AH!
You saw how dead the village is, didn't you? They've all been afraid ever since my father died The old fear has returned to...

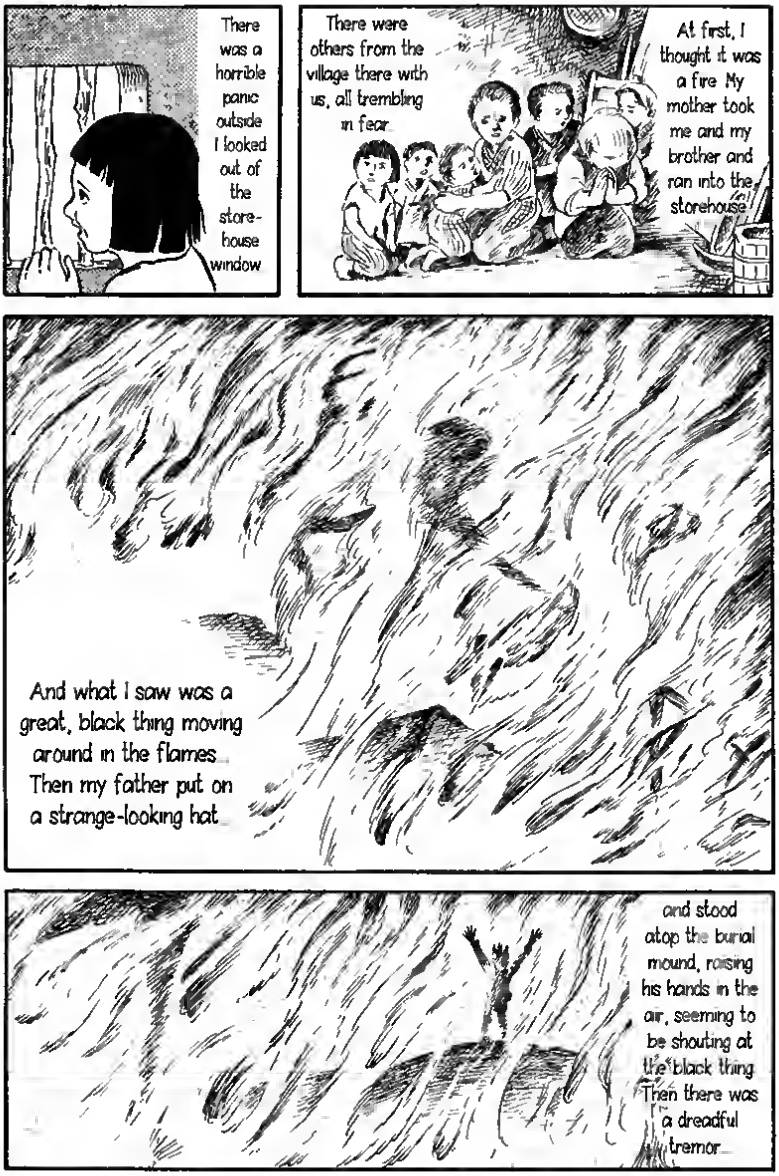
スッ

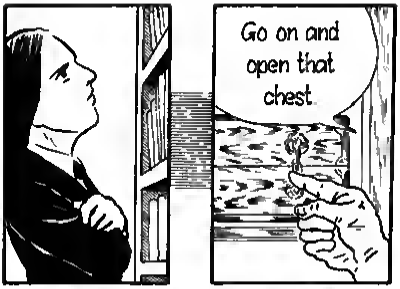

D...
Dad!?

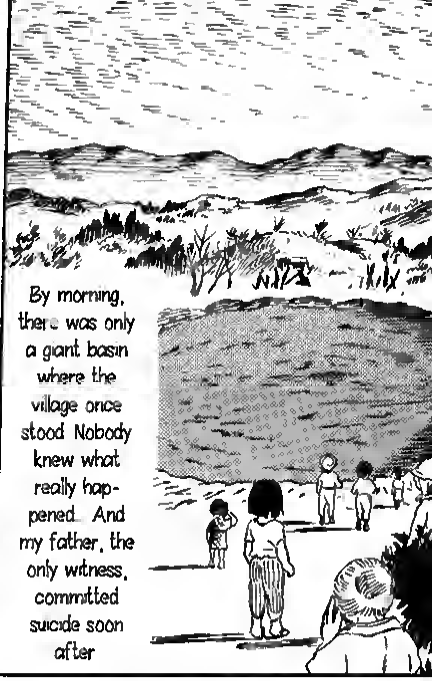

I...It's Hiruko's curse...

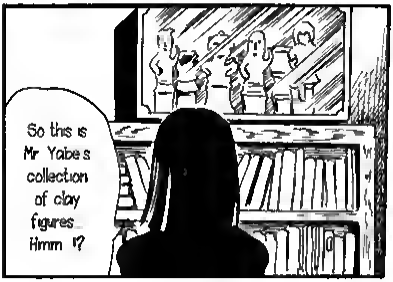

ガサッ
Dad!

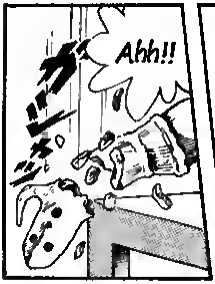
N...No way... But that really was...
Hiruko... What happened 60 years ago will happen again...
"The Chronicles of the Province of Chikugo"... There were Tsuchigumo in the village of Hira, and the denizens call them Hiruko...
Grandma...
That day, the rumbling went on all day, and by evening, the fire bell was ringing
It happened when I was still a little girl... Before this village even had electricity...
"Memoirs of the Otomo Clan"
In the Bun'ei years, innumerable Hiruko came up out of the ground, devouring many of the residents. The steward, Yabe Bo, quelled them with a three-horned crown

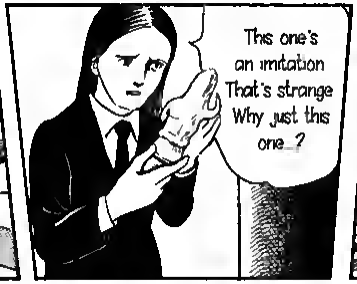

There was a horrible panic outside I looked out of the store-house window
There were others from the village there with us, all trembling in fear
At first, I thought it was a fire My mother took me and my brother and ran into the storehouse
And what I saw was a great, black thing moving around in the flames Then my father put on a strange-looking hat
and stood atop the burial mound, raising his hands in the air, seeming to be shouting at the black thing Then there was a dreadful tremor


Go on and open that chest

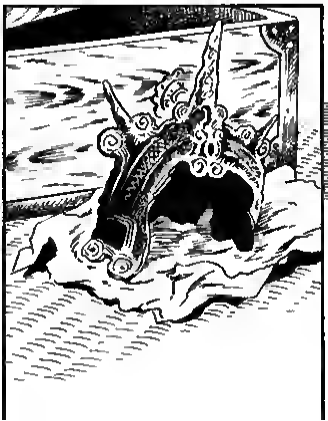

By morning, there was only a giant basin where the village once stood. Nobody knew what really happened... And my father, the only witness, committed suicide soon after

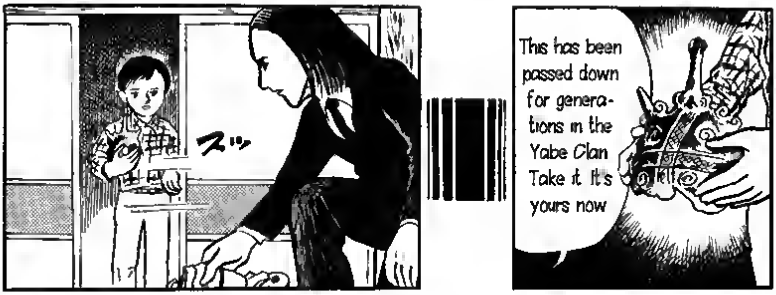

So this is Mr Yabe's collection of clay figures... Hmm !?

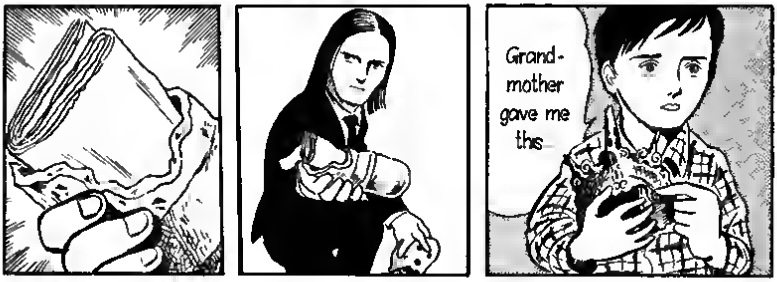

Ahh!!


This one's an imitation. That's strange. Why just this one...?

That is what my father wore. Perhaps your father wouldn't have died if he were wearing that







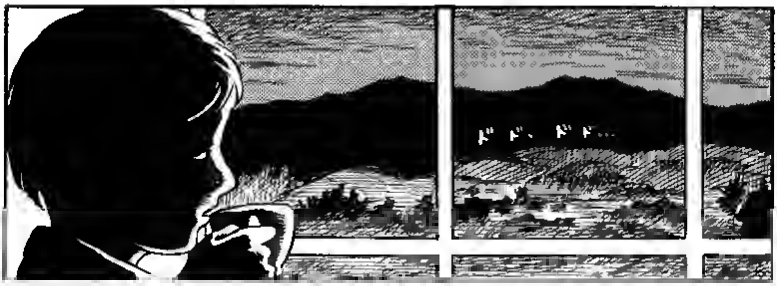
Research Notes on the Hiruko Legend

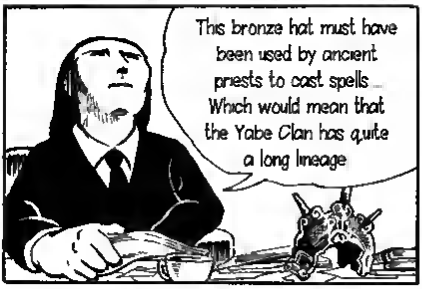
x oth
My mother will not give me the "Three-Horned Crown" She seems to be opposed to my research But I've succeeded in decoding the patterns It looks like I need to add something in

o xth
I want to find out the truth about the incident 60 years ago To do that, I need to open the door of the burial mound There has to be a door

x xth
Hiruko probably refers to the "Hiruko" of the "Kojiki" Are they still alive !?

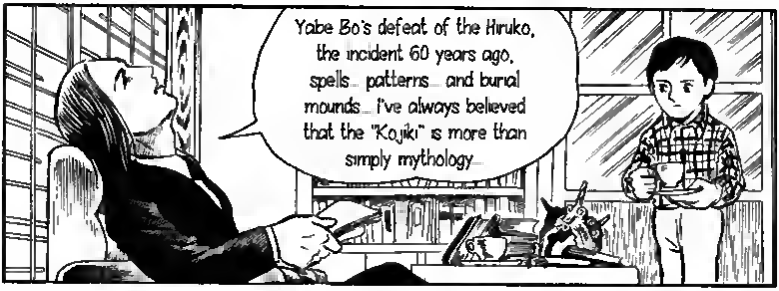
o Δth
It seems I need to decipher the patterns and find a spell to achieve my goal The spell seems to be in the "Kojiki"

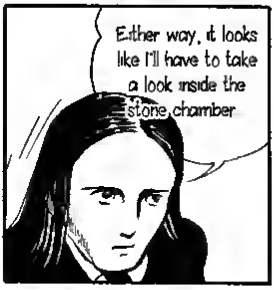



This bronze hat must have been used by ancient priests to cast spells... Which would mean that the Yabe Clan has quite a long lineage

Your father's research

ｶﾁｬ
is unorthodox, just like mine. I can see why you called me

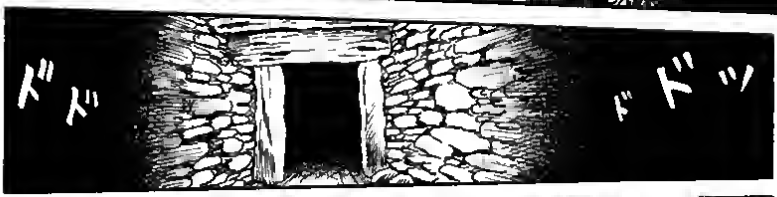

Yabe Bo's defeat of the Hiruko, the incident 60 years ago, spells... patterns... and burial mounds... I've always believed that the "Kojiki" is more than simply mythology...

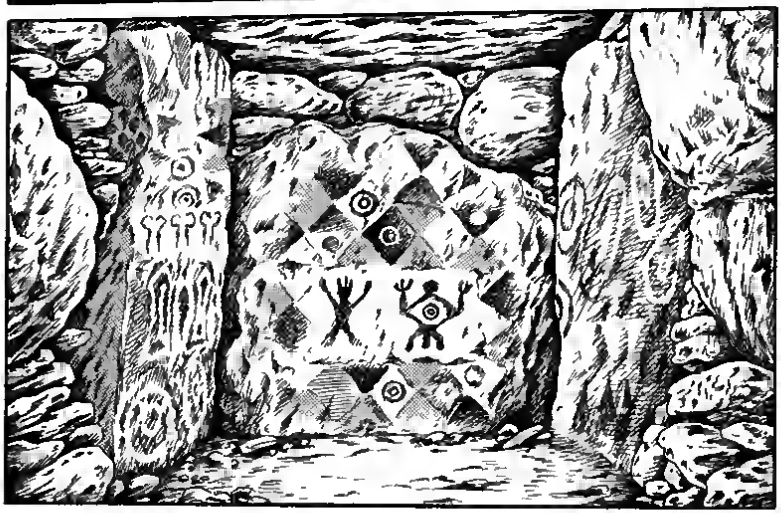

Either way, it looks like I'll have to take a look inside the stone chamber

The spell needed to seal the Hiruko, and to call them back up again, is cleverly hid within its pages...
But according to your father's research, the "Kojiki" is a form of spell book...

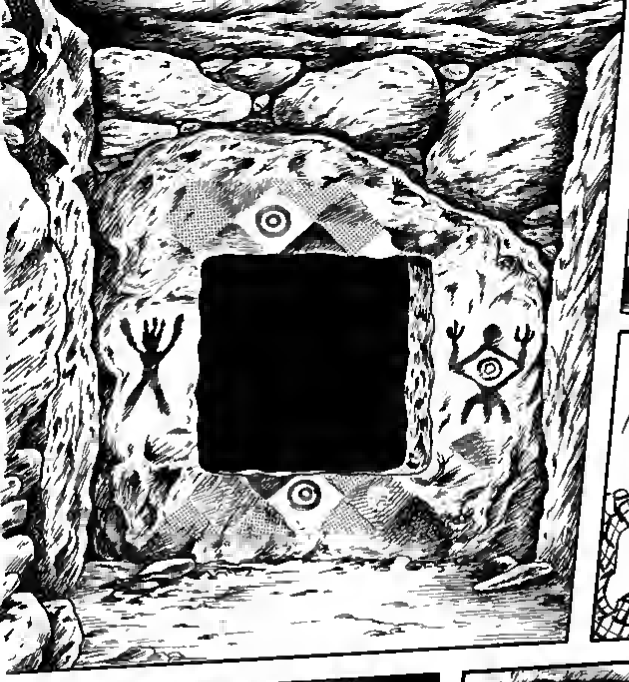
According to the "Kojiki", "Hiruko" is the first god to be born to Izanagi and Izanami, while the world was still formless. But due to his deformity, he was abandoned on a reed boat. So "Hiruko" can be interpreted as a boneless or deformed child.
The myth of gods, and later humans, being born from the primordial chaos exists worldwide, not just in the "Kojiki" and "Nihon Shoki". These myths call to mind the way in which the earth, and the first life, were born. This doesn't seem like just a coincidence.
We should go at night.
ゴク…
It would be better to go at night, if we want to perform the same experiment as your father.
Huh!?
So, we're robbing a tomb at night. Guess that's fitting for an unorthodox scholar.
Ohh.
Let's go! The entrance is locked, but I can open it. My father made a duplicate key.

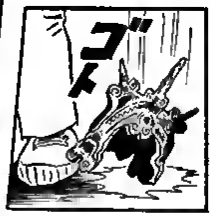
ドドドドド


ドド
ドドッ

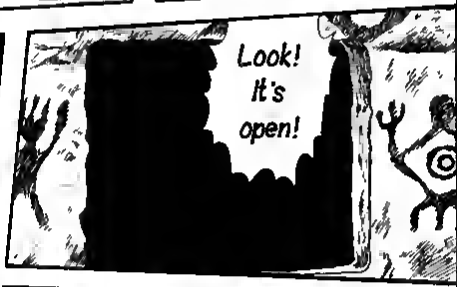


That means we can leave the pattern be Now, for the spell Are you ready?
Yes
So these are the concentric circles your father added
...Hereupon all the Heavenly deities commanded the two deities Izanagi-no-Mikoto and Izana...
The names of the deities that were born in Takamagahara when the Heaven and Earth began were the deity Ame-no-Minakanushi-no-Mikoto..
...My body is fully formed, except for a part...
キィィ
Urk
Profes-sor !
...Let us go around the Ame-no-Mihashira...




ゴト

Hang in there!

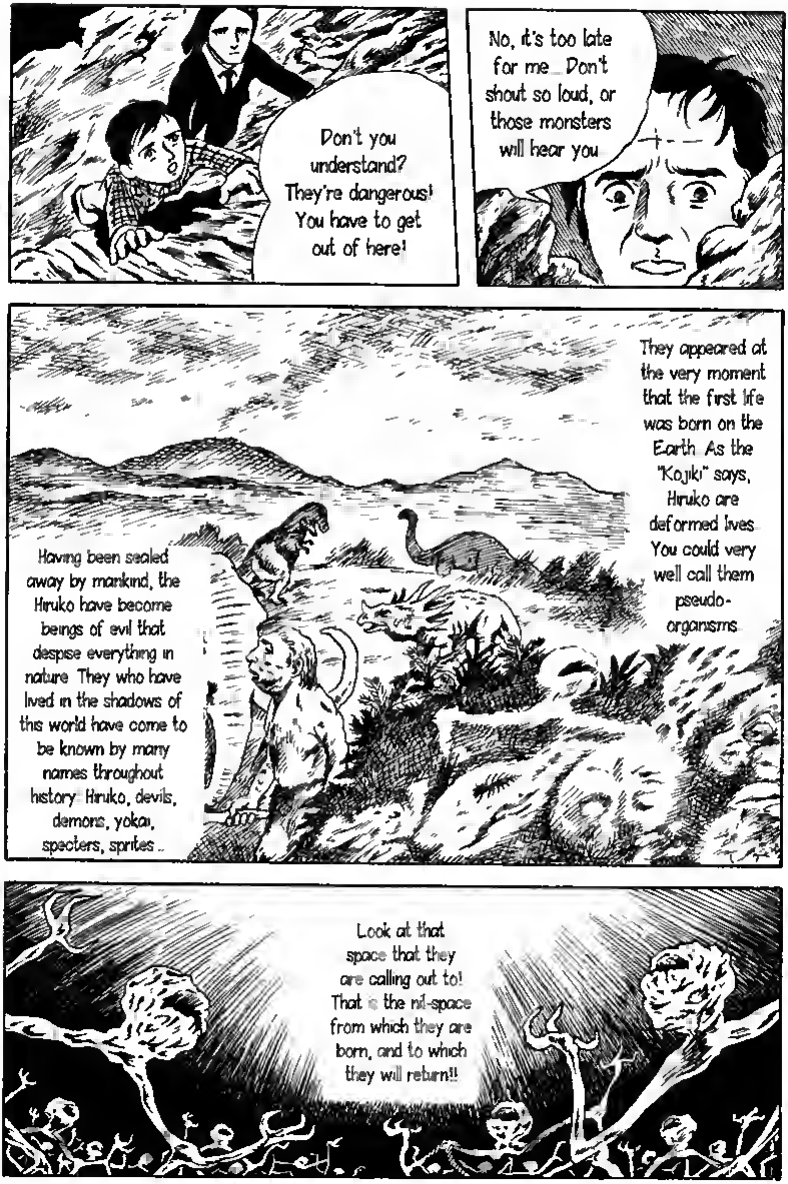

Look! It's open!

O..Of course

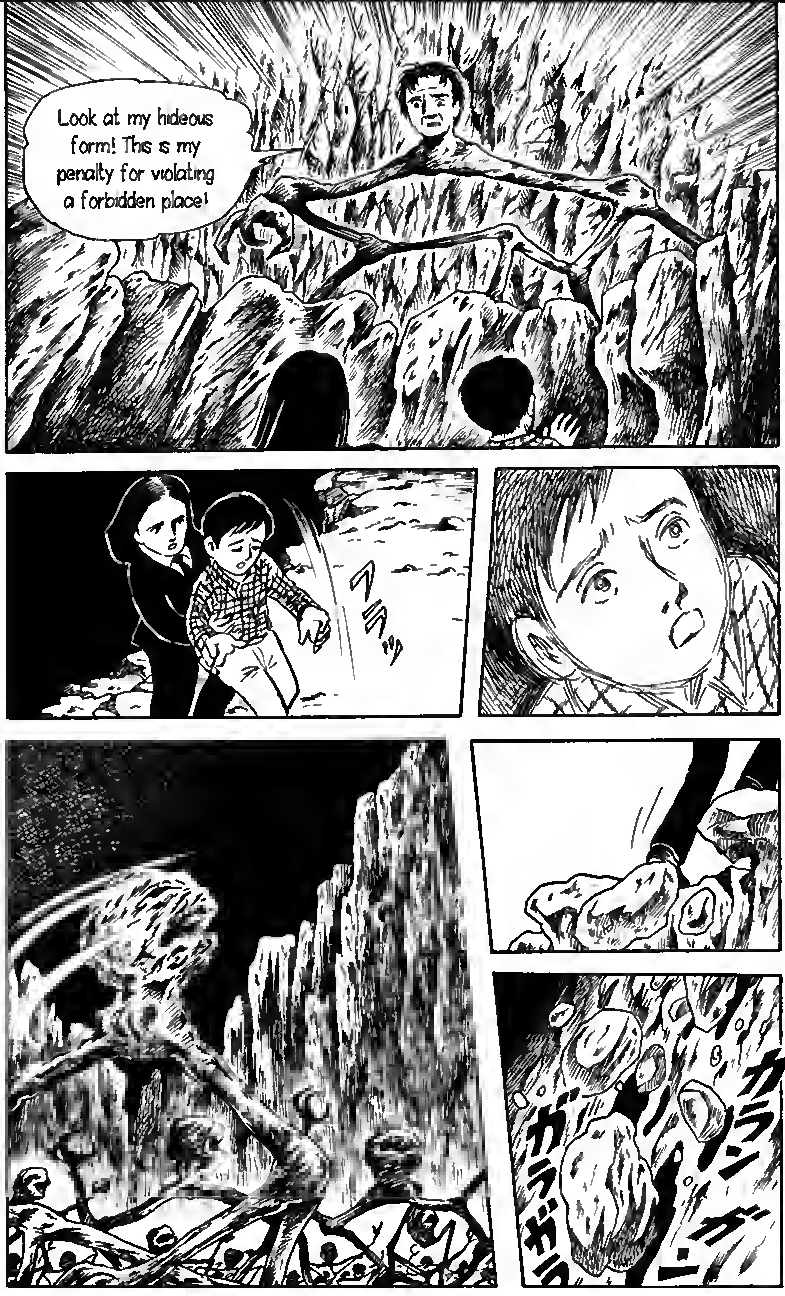
Well? Do you want to go in!?

But we've come across a large cavern... How unusual...
This is unnatural. We've only gone down about ten meters...
Put out the light.
Shhh!
Maybe it's the land of Yomi ?

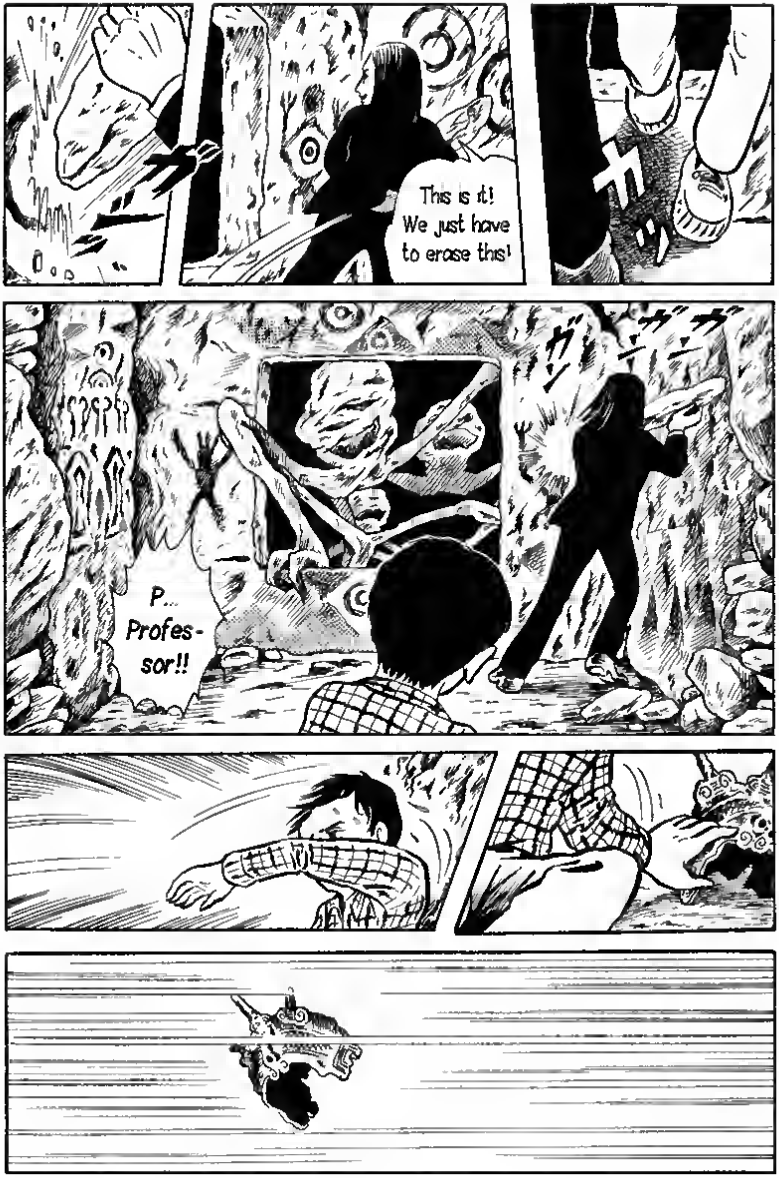
The child which was born to them was Hiruko. They placed him in a boat of reeds and let it float away
Masao...
Masao...
Dad!
Dad, you're alive! I'm so happy to see you! Come on down from there!

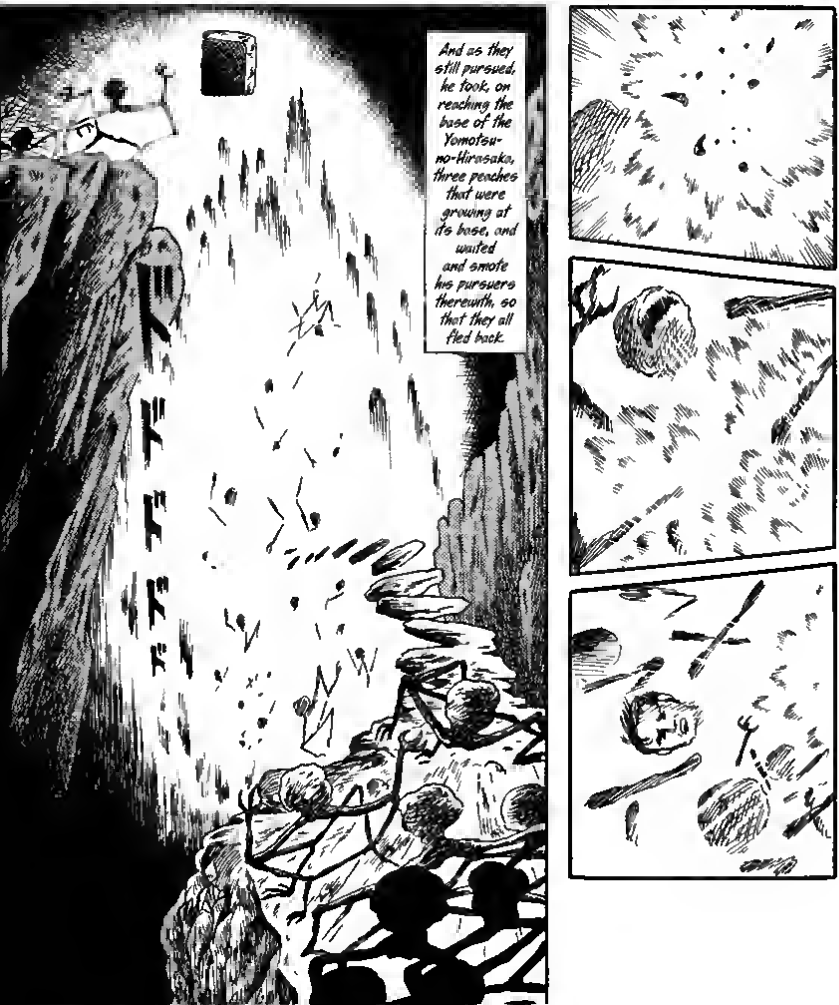

Don't you understand? They're dangerous! You have to get out of here!
No, it's too late for me... Don't shout so loud, or those monsters will hear you
They appeared at the very moment that the first life was born on the Earth. As the "Kojiki" says, Hiruko are deformed lives. You could very well call them pseudo-organisms.
Having been sealed away by mankind, the Hiruko have become beings of evil that despise everything in nature. They who have lived in the shadows of this world have come to be known by many names throughout history: Hiruko, devils, demons, yokai, specters, sprites...
Look at that space that they are calling out to! That is the nil-space from which they are born, and to which they will return!!

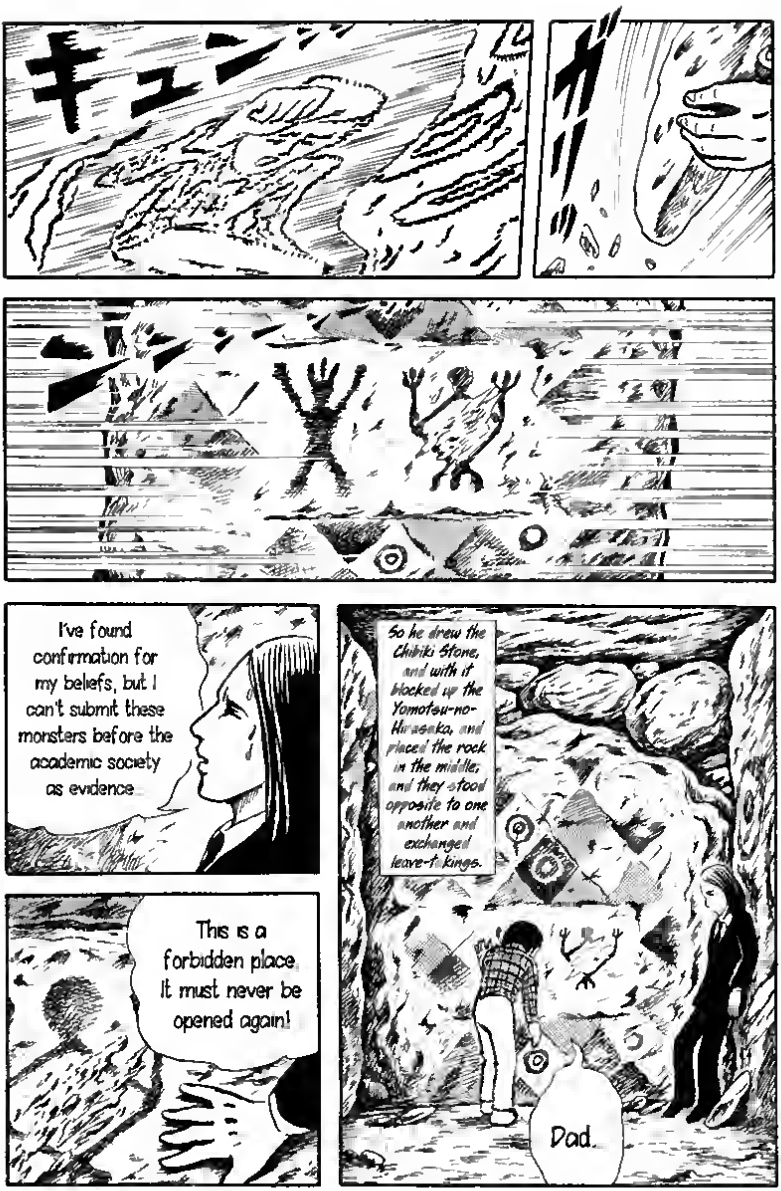
because I wanted you to erase the pattern I painted, and ensure that the door is not opened again. I can no longer do it myself.
W...Why can't you do it?
And yet... I was drawn by curiosity and opened the door leading to the surface. I have appeared before you now...
They had mostly been sealed away by the ancients. But even now, they are attempting to break the spell and return to the surface.
As I was escaping, I was caught by one of the monsters.
And now... Look at me!
And when the entrance was closing, I was caught up in the warped space, with the monster still clinging on to me.

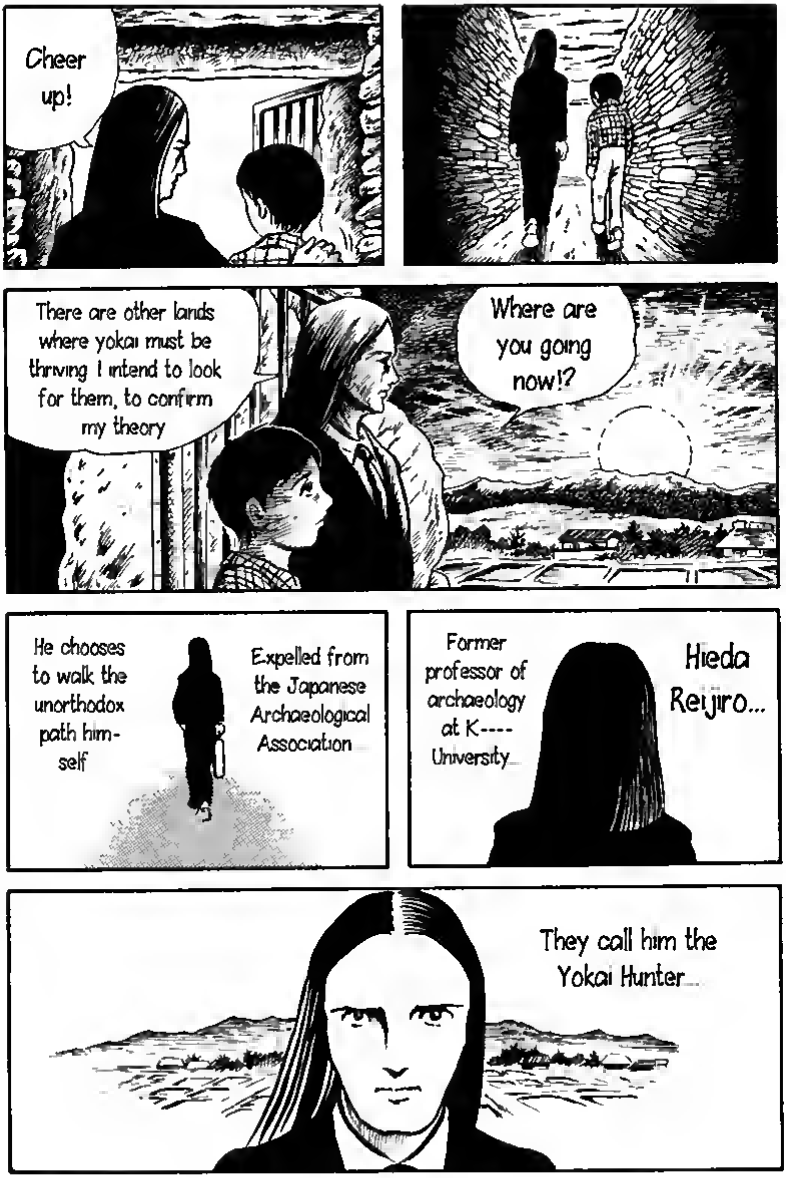

Look at my hideous form! This is my penalty for violating a forbidden place!
ガラン
ガラガラ
ガラン

Hereupon Izanagi-no-Mikoto, overawed at the sight, fled back, whereupon his younger sister, Izanami-no-Mikoto at once sent the Hags of Yomi to pursue him.
Get out of here! You there, take Masao... and return the pattern to normal!!
H... Hurry! Close the entrance... Revert the pattern ...!!
D... Dad...
Forget about him! Your father's dead now!
Gyehhhhhhhhh!


This is it! We just have to erase this!
P... Profes- sor!!


And as they still pursued, he took, on reaching the base of the Yomotsu-no-Hirasaka, three peaches that were growing at its base, and waited and smote his pursuers therewith, so that they all fled back.
ドドドドド


キュン
ガリ
I've found confirmation for my beliefs, but I can't submit these monsters before the academic society as evidence...
This is a forbidden place. It must never be opened again!
So he drew the Chibiki Stone, and with it blocked up the Yomotsu-no-Hirasaka, and placed the rock in the middle; and they stood opposite to one another and exchanged leave-t kings.
Dad...


Cheer up!
There are other lands where yokai must be thriving I intend to look for them, to confirm my theory
Where are you going now!?
He chooses to walk the unorthodox path himself
Expelled from the Japanese Archaeological Association
Former professor of archaeology at K---- University
Hieda Reijiro...
They call him the Yokai Hunter...

YOKAI HUNTER

BY MOROHOSHI DAIJIRO

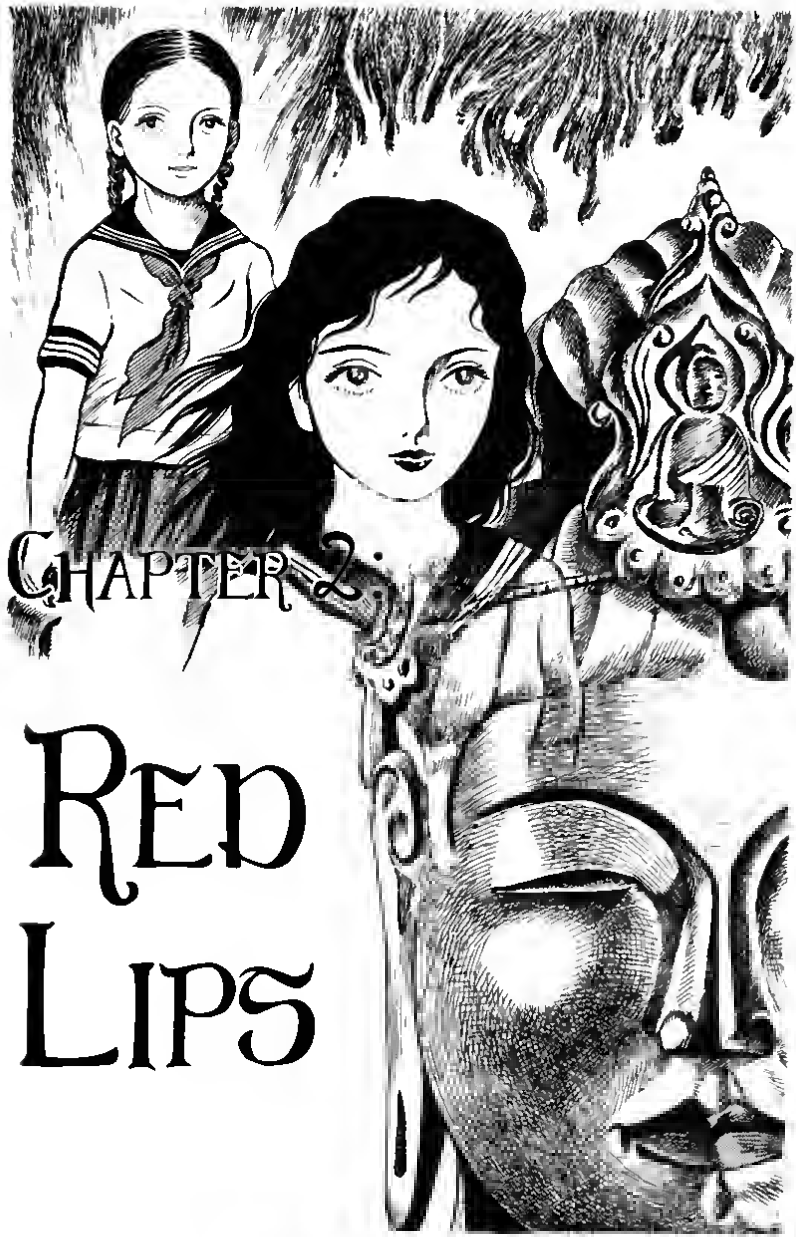
Chapter 1

Presented by Hokuto no Gun and Happy Scans

Translated by Systematcichaos

Cleaned by Hightide

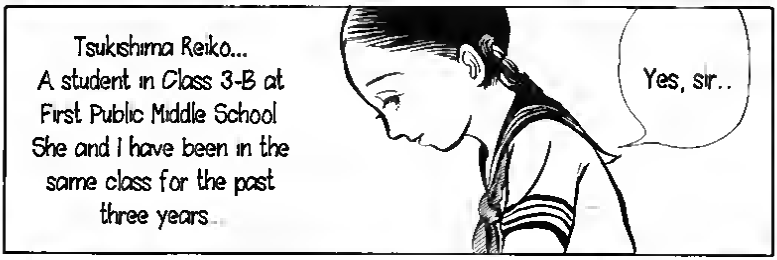
Typesetting by Kazuhiko

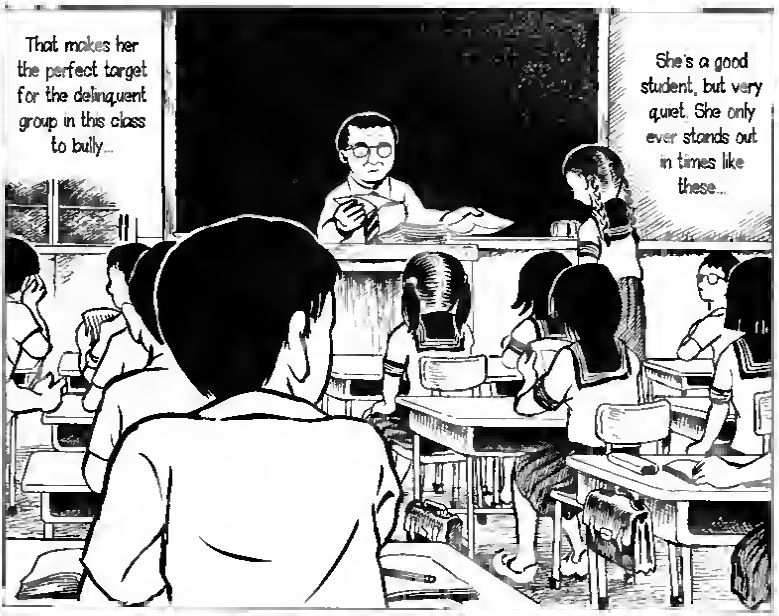


CHAPTER 2

RED LIPS

There's only one student that got full marks. Tsukishima Reiko...
Uhhh.. I'm giving you back your tests now. Your average was very low this time.


Tsukishima Reiko... A student in Class 3-B at First Public Middle School. She and I have been in the same class for the past three years...
Yes, sir..

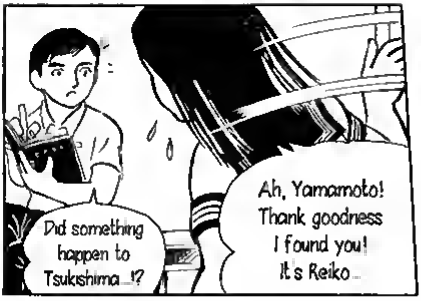

That makes her the perfect target for the delinquent group in this class to bully...
She's a good student, but very quiet. She only ever stands out in times like these...

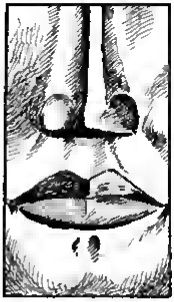
Yamamoto, you got 48? Get it together
Y... Yes, sir!
ガラ
Yama-moto!
I fancy myself her bodyguard whenever they do...
Dammit! Does he have to read everybody's scores out loud...?
Kurata, 40...
Otaru, 43...
F... Forty-eight...?
ガラ
Oh, shut up!
Hey, Otaru, you got 43? You're pretty far behind!
ZZz...
OK.
Maki, Yoko, rough her up a bit on the way home!
I just can't stand that nerdy goody-two-shoes...

Aiiee eee...

You wanna go home and hit the books, do you? Not happening!
Please... I have to go home now...

Go on in there! We're not letting you out until you start crying!
Ahh


Did something happen to Tsukishima...!?
Ah, Yamamoto! Thank goodness I found you! It's Reiko...



Huff
Huff
When I heard that Tsukishima had been taken away by Asai Maki and Sano Yoko from Otani's group, I ran to Joko Temple as fast as I could
There's nobody here...
Huh? She's home? So there's nothing wrong...? No, that's good to hear
Uh Hello, this is Yamamoto Is Reiko home!?
Hello, you've reached the Tsukishima residence
ジー
And I was hoping to show her my cool side, too
Oh, so she's already home
ガチャ

...But then something happened the next day!!

You mean the pencil-pusher!?
She looks like Tsukishima from class B
Who's that!?
L... Look!
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ

Is that really Tsukishima!?
She looks sexy!
She's wearing lipstick

W... What's going on?
Ts Tsuki-shima
Tsuki-shima!
ガタン
Maki and Yoko haven't come to school today, either. What the hell's going on!?
Who does that slut think she is?
You! Pull out my chair.
Uh... H... Here.
ガタ
I'm glad to see you coming out of your shell, but this is a school! Wipe off that lipstick!
It's my choice, isn't it?
I'm afraid I can't...
Ts...Tsukishima, what's a model student like you doing dressed like that...?

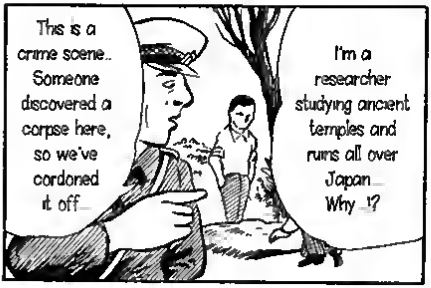
Enough of this prattle Be silent
What do you mean you can't!? If any other student did this, I'd have suspended them already!
T Ts Tsuki
ガ〜 ガ〜 ガ〜
The... The moon's out now... Class is dismissed...
Do not meddle in my affairs again
At any rate, this incident, or rather, Tsukishima Reiko's transformation, started a sensation throughout the school...

But that was no more than a prelude to something even more dreadful...
ボグッ
バスッ

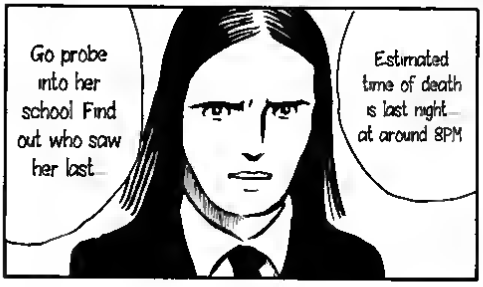
T...That's Morishita from the soccer club! And the other guy's Kawano, the student council president... Why are they ?

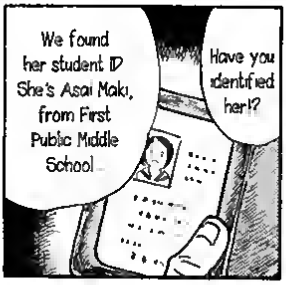
Hey, wait... This place is off-limits! Do you have any business at this temple!?

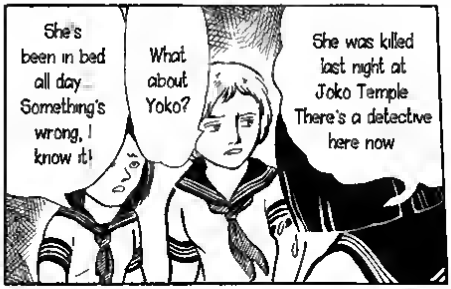
JOKO TEMPLE


This is a crime scene... Someone discovered a corpse here, so we've cordoned it off...
I'm a researcher studying ancient temples and ruins all over Japan... Why...!?

These aren't a dog's teeth marks, though. This is just strange...
Do you think it could've been a stray dog?
This is horrible... Her face has almost entirely been gnawed off...

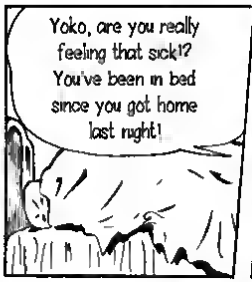

Go probe into her school. Find out who saw her last...
Estimated time of death is last night... at around 8PM

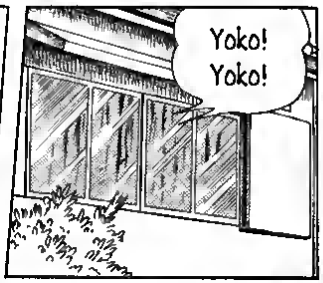

We found her student ID. She's Asai Maki, from First Public Middle School...
Have you identified her!?


She's been in bed all day... Something's wrong, I know it!
What about Yoko?
She was killed last night at Joko Temple There's a detective here now

What!?
Otani, it's awful! Maki's dead!

Your friend's on the phone... She said it's important...


Yoko, are you really feeling that sick!? You've been in bed since you got home last night!


Yoko! Yoko!

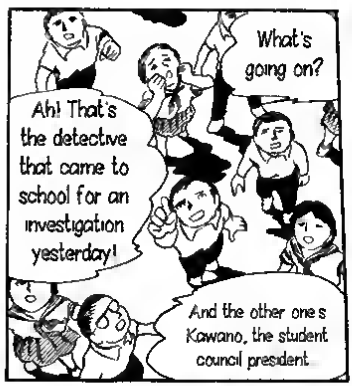
Is that you, Yoko ? Hehehe... Thanks for last night Don't hang up Just listen...

Hello ?

ガチャ

...Do as I say, alright? Hehehe...

ケン…
Is something wrong, Yoko ?
Huh…? You're with the police…? You want to see Yoko? Just a second…
AIII EEE EEE EE!
Yoko, are you in there? Something awful's happened
ドンドン


What's going on?
Ah! That's the detective that came to school for an investigation yesterday!
And the other one's Kawano, the student council president

S... Stop! Sto...!
The next day, there was yet another terrifying incident...!!

A... Ahhh hhh!

The detective fell!
No, Kawano pushed him off...!

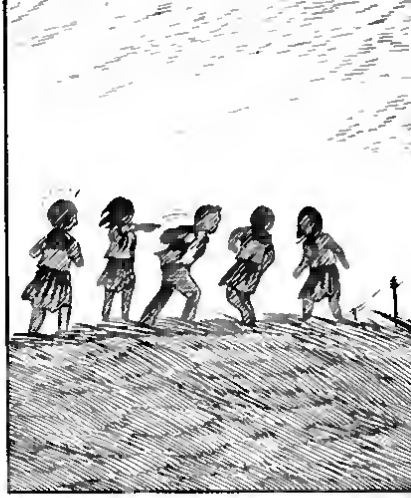
WAAAAAAAAUGH!...

Hehe
he...

!?

Hehhehe
hehe...

Hold it!
Looks like your posse's not here today. Your power trip's over now.
Hehhehe. Alright, time to rough her up a bit!
Just shut up and do it!
Hey, she's pretty hot. It's a real shame.
…!?
I'm not the one you should be punching.

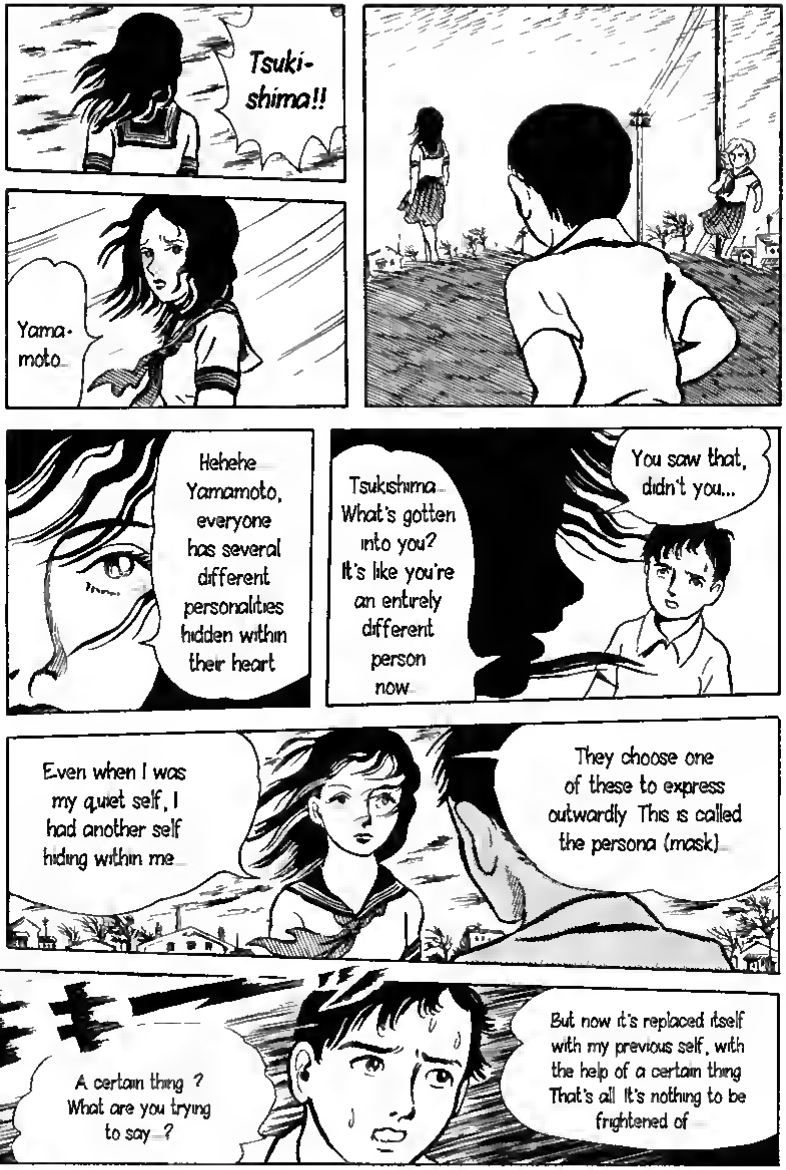


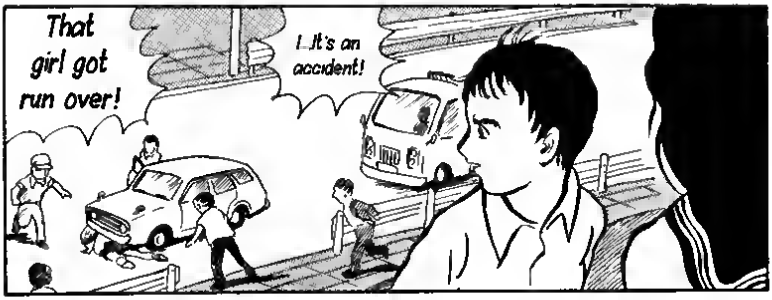
W... What the hell are you doing!?

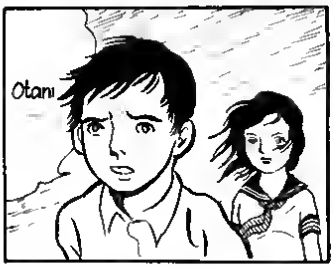
Go get hit by a car and die.

And Otani As for you...
ガタガタガタ

That's enough You can go now.
Huff
Huff
Huff


Tsuki-shima!!
Yama-moto
Hehehe Yamamoto, everyone has several different personalities hidden within their heart
Tsukishima What's gotten into you? It's like you're an entirely different person now
You saw that, didn't you...
Even when I was my quiet self, I had another self hiding within me
They choose one of these to express outwardly This is called the persona (mask)
A certain thing ? What are you trying to say ?
But now it's replaced itself with my previous self, with the help of a certain thing That's all It's nothing to be frightened of


That girl got run over!
I...It's an accident!


Otani

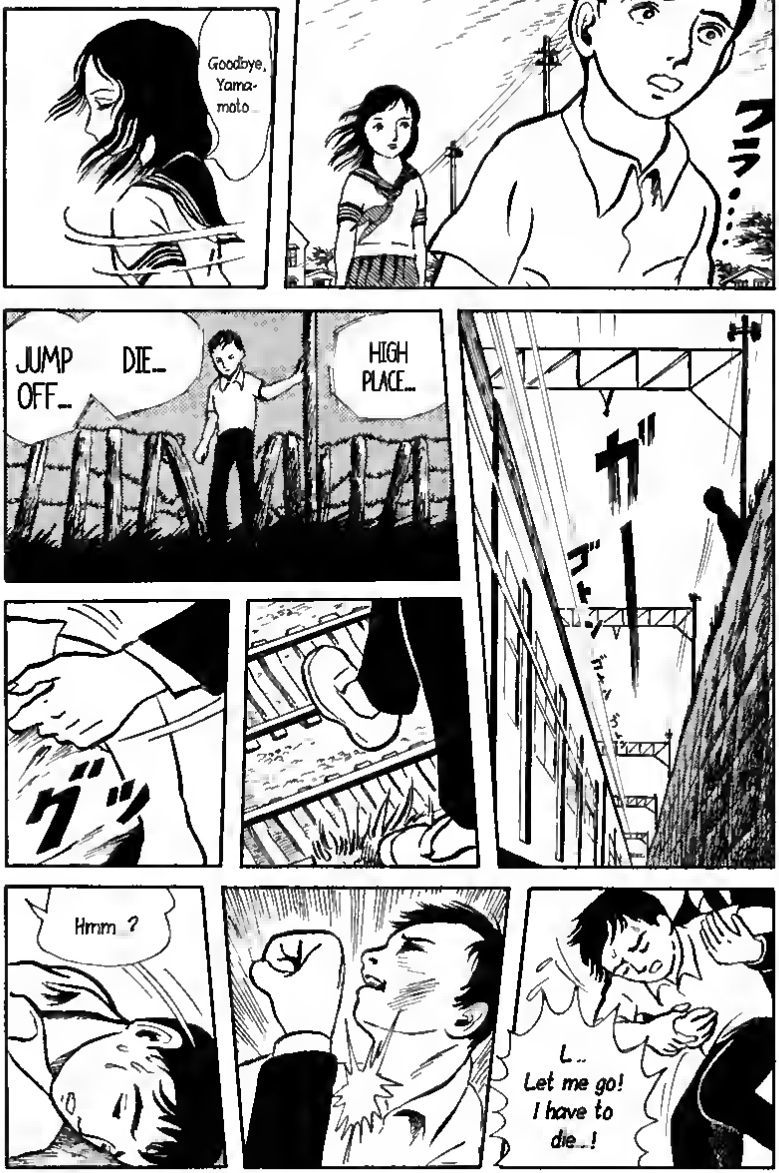
She just jumped in front of me... like she was committing suicide!

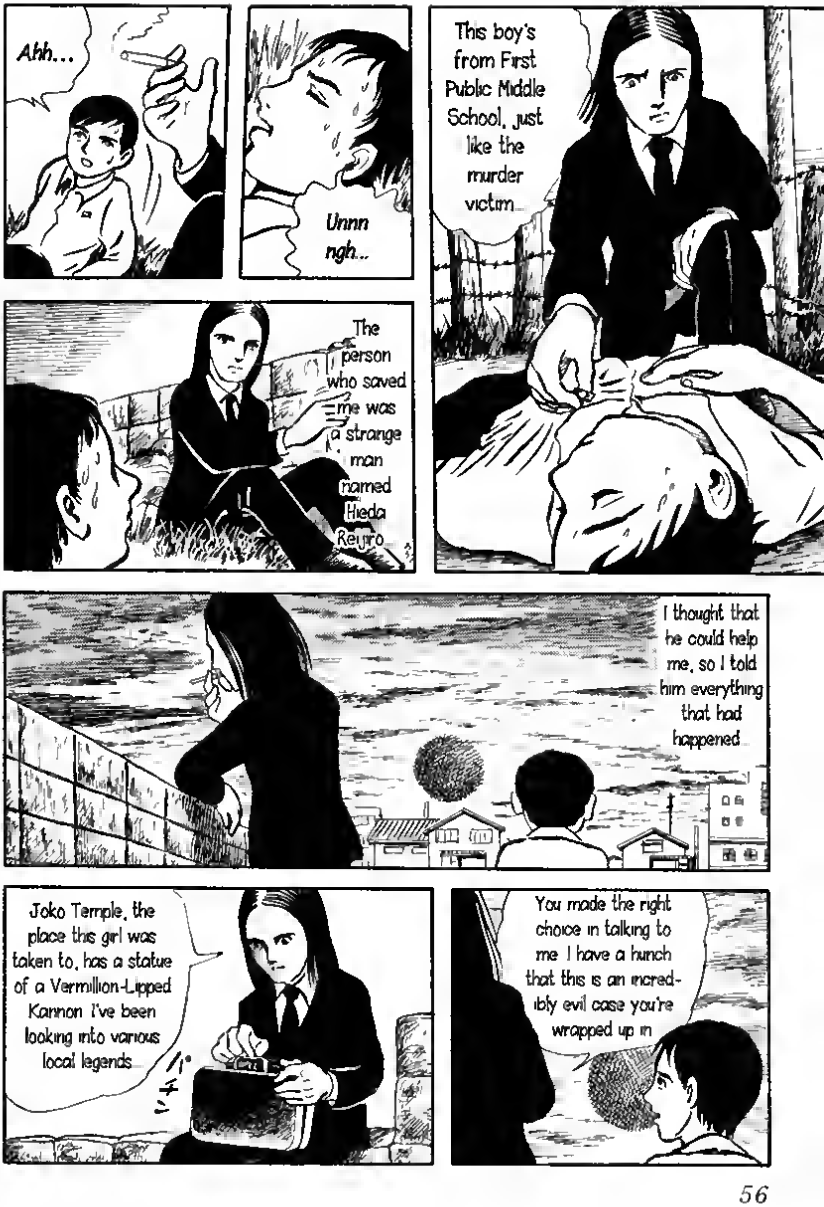
Whatever it is... If I say die, they will die...

Now do you see? I was gifted with magic. I can make anyone obey every word that comes out of these lips...

Go die... Jump off a high place...

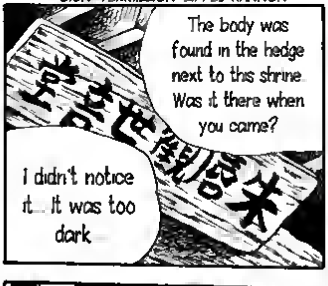
I didn't want to cause you any harm... But now that you know...

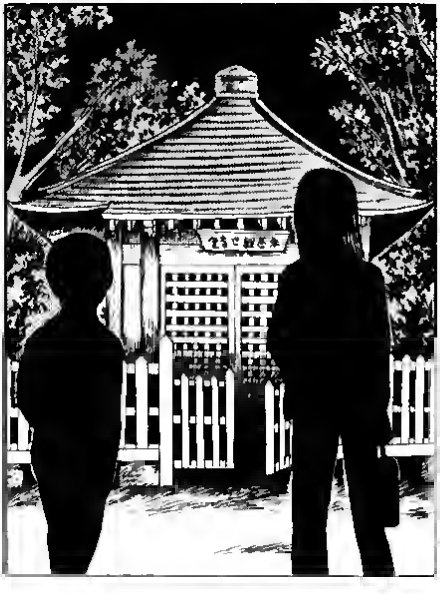

Goodbye, Yamamoto...
フラ…
JUMP OFF...
DIE...
HIGH PLACE...
ガー
ゴォ
グッ
Hmm ?
L... Let me go! I have to die...!


Ahh...
Unnn ngh...
This boy's from First Public Middle School, just like the murder victim...
The person who saved me was a strange man named Hieda Reijiro
I thought that he could help me, so I told him everything that had happened
Joko Temple, the place this girl was taken to, has a statue of a Vermillion-Lipped Kannon I've been looking into various local legends
You made the right choice in talking to me. I have a hunch that this is an incredibly evil case you're wrapped up in

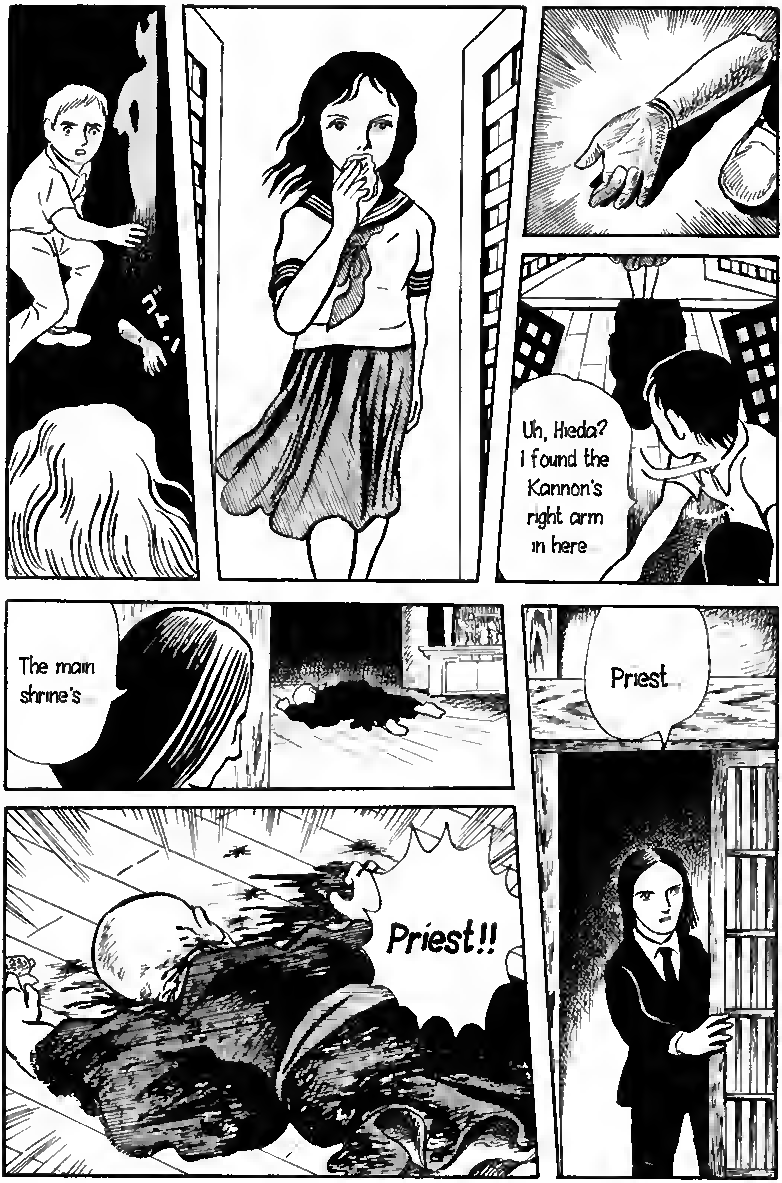
As I followed these stories, they led me to the Vermillion-Lipped Kannon I thought I might come to some sort of conclusion if I looked into it...
And I just arrived here yesterday, drawn by that same Kannon It seems I was a little too late
The legends I was looking into were a series of hag legends There are stories very similar to the Hag of Kurozuka throughout this entire area
Let's go back to Joko Temple I couldn't investigate it yesterday because the police were there

SIGN VERMILLION-LIPPED KANNON





The statue of Kannon's been split in two!
The chest is hollowed out...
Whoa...
There was something in here. It left some red blotches...
I'll go see the priest. Wait here.

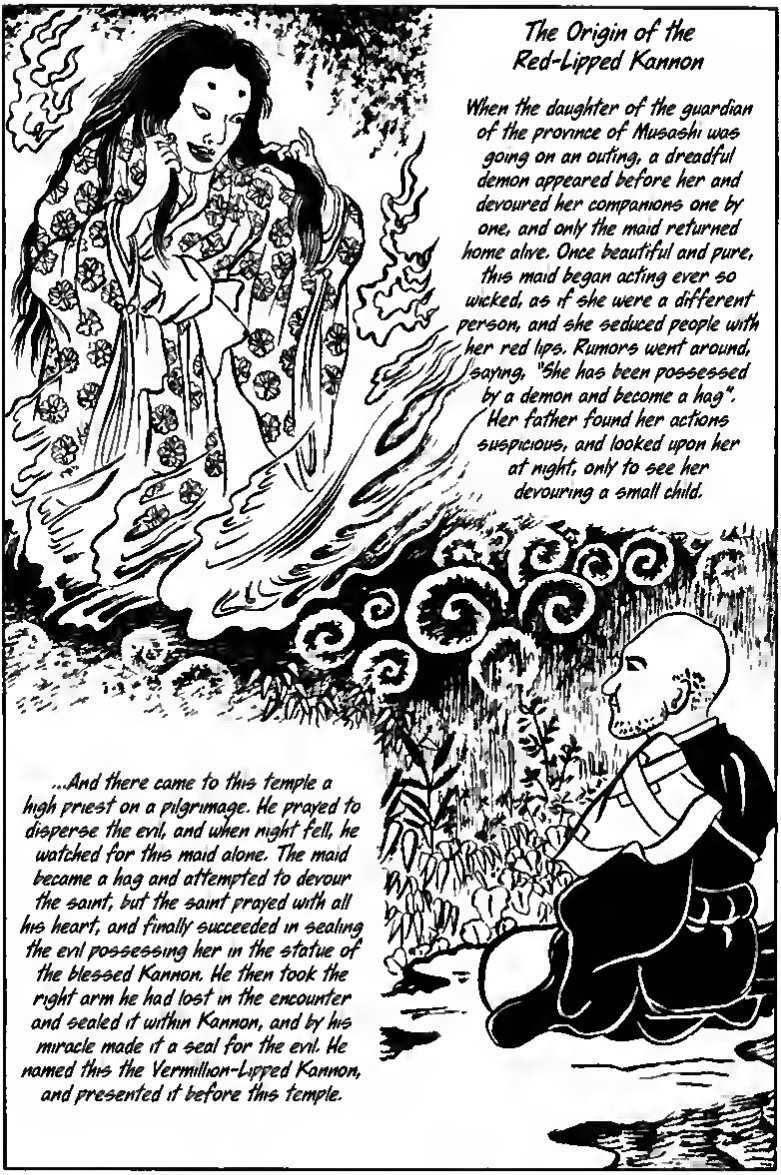

ゴォ…!
Uh, Hieda? I found the Kannon's right arm in here
The main shrine's
Priest
Priest!!

Do not touch the Kannon! Leave the shrine at once!
The blood's still wet. He was just killed recently.
The Origin of the Red-Lipped Kannon...!?
So, my magic didn't affect you. But you won't get away this time!

I'm going to kill you, then burn this temple to the ground, that pesky Kannon with it Then I will be free
ドン
ガ
What do you mean, "it" ? You mean the thing possessing you? The thing that was sealed inside the statue of Kannon?
It has given me great powers, but I must give it nourishment in return
Yamamoto, my lips aren't red from lipstick They became red from sucking human blood

Get away from him!
You know too much But now...
You! W...Where'd you get that arm...!?
S-Stay away from me..!

ガシッ
GYAAAAAAA...
バチッ
...AAAAAAAAAAHHHH...
it's just like the scroll said...


The Origin of the Red-Lipped Kannon
When the daughter of the guardian of the province of Musashi was going on an outing, a dreadful demon appeared before her and devoured her companions one by one, and only the maid returned home alive. Once beautiful and pure, this maid began acting ever so wicked, as if she were a different person, and she seduced people with her red lips. Rumors went around, saying, "She has been possessed by a demon and become a hag". Her father found her actions suspicious, and looked upon her at night, only to see her devouring a small child.
...And there came to this temple a high priest on a pilgrimage. He prayed to disperse the evil, and when night fell, he watched for this maid alone. The maid became a hag and attempted to devour the saint, but the saint prayed with all his heart, and finally succeeded in sealing the evil possessing her in the statue of the blessed Kannon. He then took the right arm he had lost in the encounter and sealed it within Kannon, and by his miracle made it a seal for the evil. He named this the Vermillion-Lipped Kannon, and presented it before this temple.

So this mummified arm must have had the power to make it tremble...
Long ago... A saint sealed this yokai within the statue of Kannon, and left his own right arm within it...
She was already under the evil's complete control I couldn't save her...
Tsuki-shima...
Look at it! That's the true form of the evil!
L...L... Look! Her lips!

Those red lips left Tsukishima's face, as if they were a separate creature...
ゴ-!!
ピク… ピク
But just before they vanished entirely...
シュウ
シュウ
They crawled along the ground, melting into smoke...
I'm sure I saw them smile...
シュウ
シュウ
シュウ

YOKAI HUNTER

BY MOROHOSHI DAIJIRO

Chapter 2

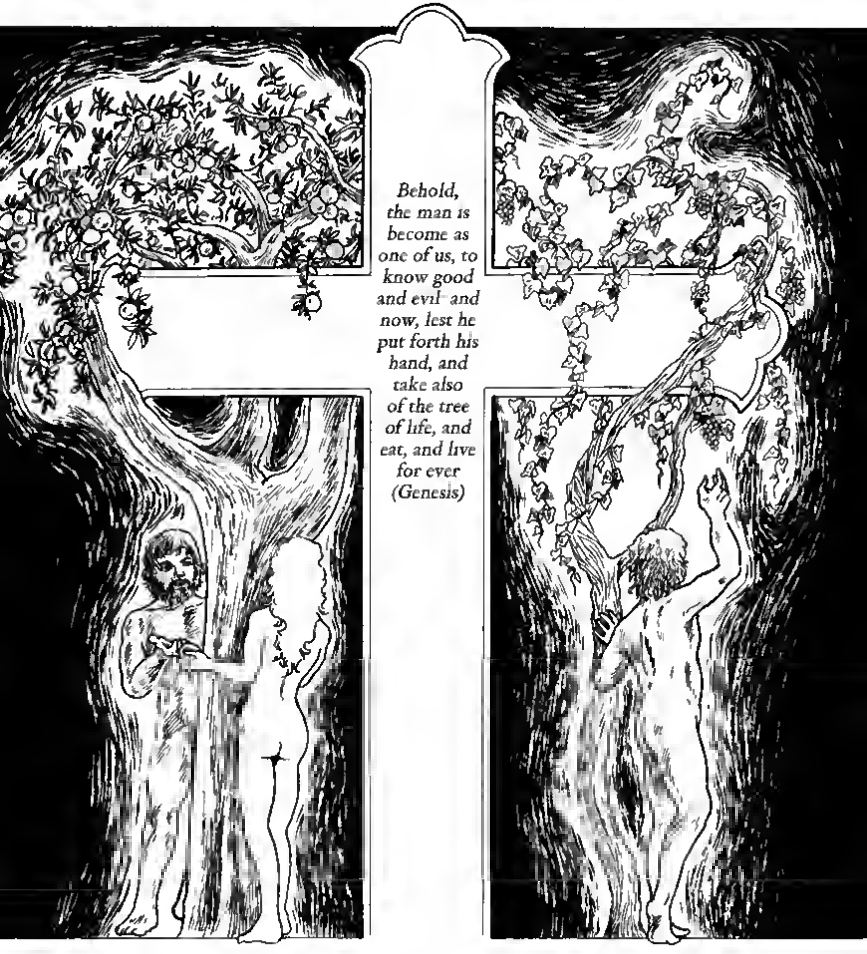
Presented by Hokuto no Gun and Happy Scans

Translated by Systematcichaos

Cleaned by Hightide

Typesetting by Kazuhiko

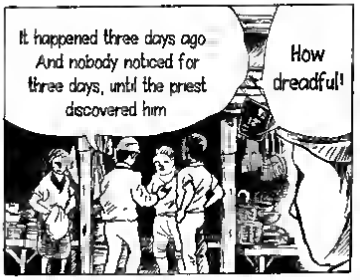
Chapter 3:
The Tree of Life


Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever (Genesis)

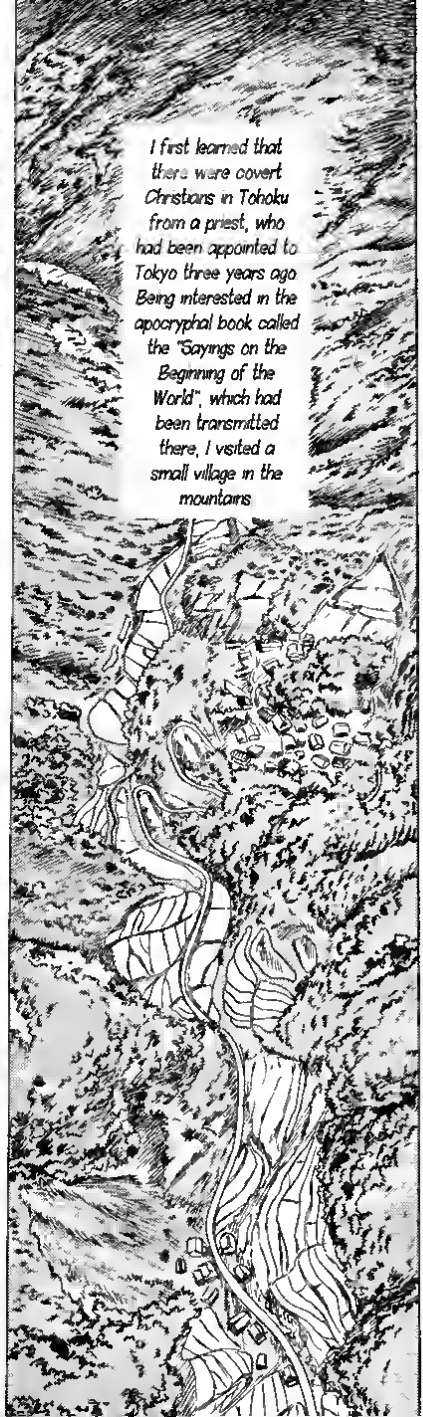
In the beginning, **Deus** *was worshiped as Lord of Heaven and Earth, and Parent of humankind and all creation. He is the one who made all things, and he formed bodies out of the Earth and blew breath into them. These were* **Adan** *and* **Jusuheru.** *There were two trees in* **Paraiso,** *and* **Deus** *strongly warned them not to eat of these trees. But* **Jusuheru** *deceived* **Adan,** *and* **Adan** *ate the fruit of the* **Masan** *tree, while* **Jusuheru** *ate the fruit of the Tree of Life. Thus they immediately lost the pleasure of heaven. **Adan** and his wife **Ewa** were driven to the lower realm, where they ate of the beasts and tilled the fields. As the children of **Jusuheru** continued to multiply without dying, **Deus,** with much grief, opened up the Earth and cast them into **Inherno.** Their few remaining descendants remain hidden from mankind, and they do not die due to the fruit of the Tree of Life, but the curse of Deus forces them to fall into Inherno, where for generations they writhe in the depths of the Earth, and their suffering will not cease until the return of **Kirinto***

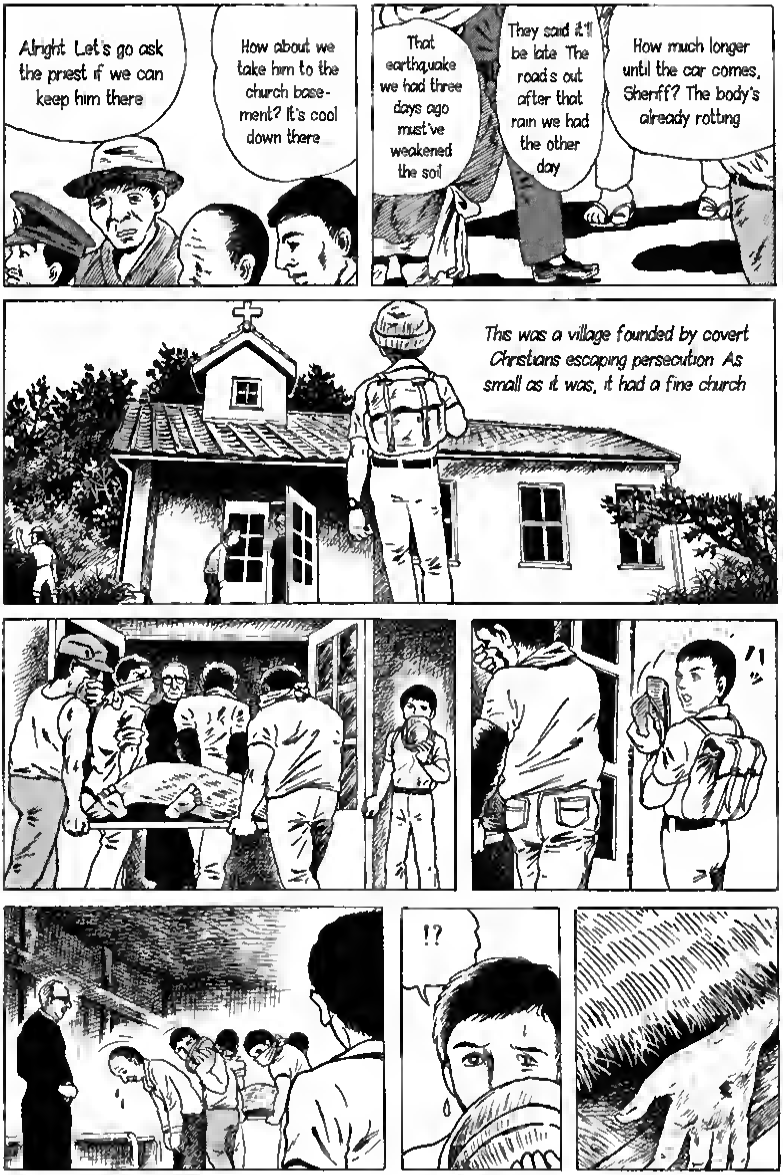
(From "Sayings on the Beginning of the World", by the covert Christians of Tohoku)

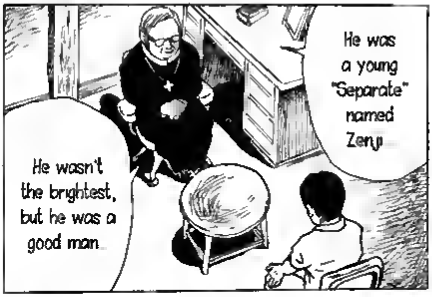
The village seemed to be in an uproar

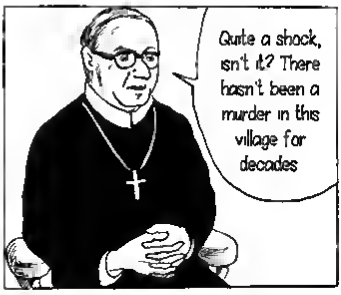

It happened three days ago. And nobody noticed for three days, until the priest discovered him
How dreadful!

Yeah, and those people are idiots
The only people who ever go near Bone Mountain are the "Separates"

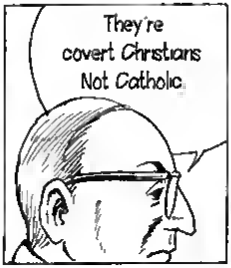

I first learned that there were covert Christians in Tohoku from a priest, who had been appointed to Tokyo three years ago. Being interested in the apocryphal book called the "Sayings on the Beginning of the World", which had been transmitted there, I visited a small village in the mountains


Alright. Let's go ask the priest if we can keep him there
How about we take him to the church basement? It's cool down there
That earthquake we had three days ago must've weakened the soil
They said it'll be late. The road's out after that rain we had the other day
How much longer until the car comes, Sheriff? The body's already rotting
This was a village founded by covert Christians escaping persecution. As small as it was, it had a fine church
!?

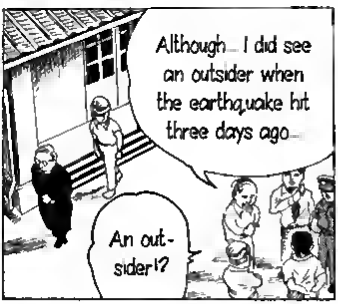

He was a young "Separate" named Zenji
He wasn't the brightest, but he was a good man


Quite a shock, isn't it? There hasn't been a murder in this village for decades

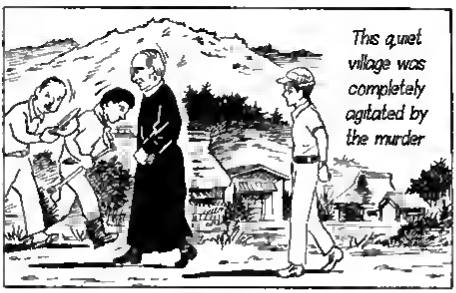
!?


They're covert Christians Not Catholic

Heretic? Aren't the "Separates" Christian?
At first I was going to refuse to keep his body in the church, him being a heretic and all

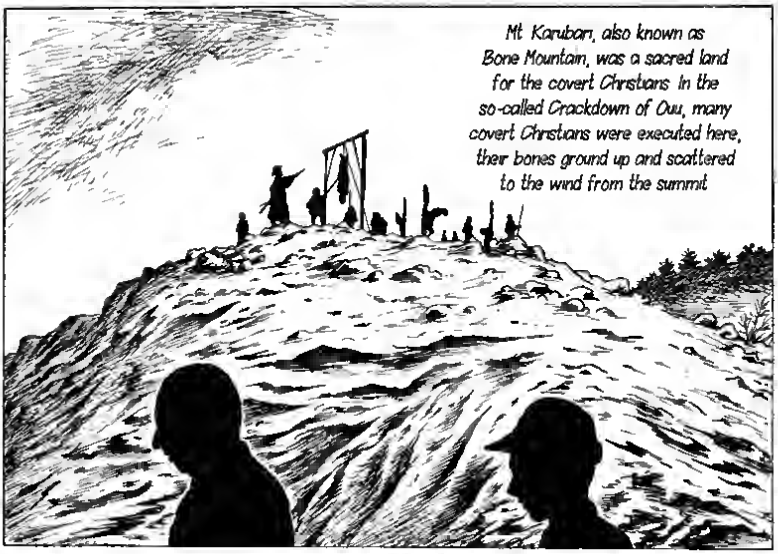

Although... I did see an outsider when the earthquake hit three days ago...
An outsider!?

So none of you noticed anything wrong with Zenji?
Yeah I never seen him before
We don't go near the "Separates"

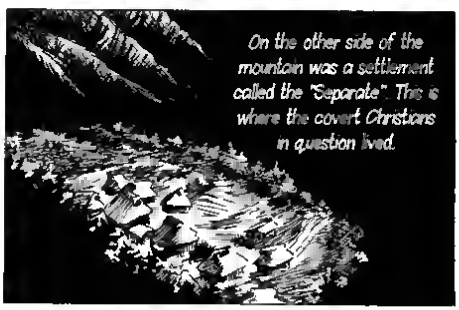

This quiet village was completely agitated by the murder

I saw him, too. He was tall and dressed in black. Looked like a city man

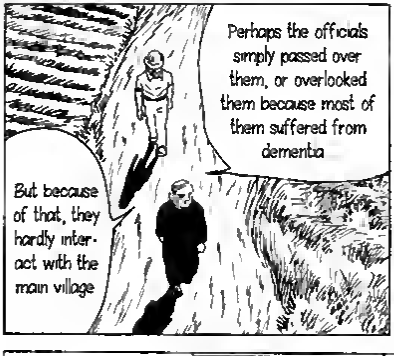
I found Zenji's body here on Mt. Korubori.

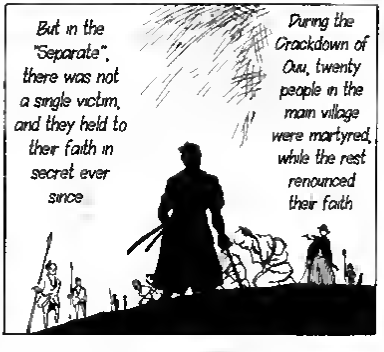

Mt. Korubori, also known as Bone Mountain, was a sacred land for the covert Christians. In the so-called Crackdown of Ou, many covert Christians were executed here, their bones ground up and scattered to the wind from the summit.

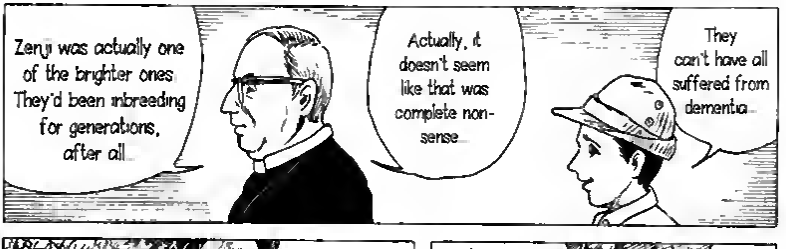
Father, the villagers don't think very well of the "Separates", do they?
You're right. They've disliked them for a long time.

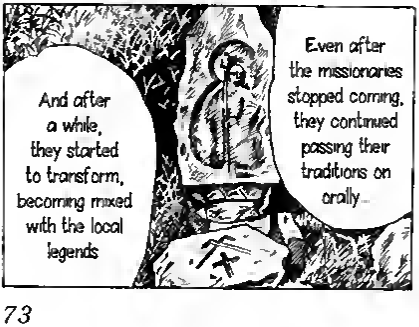

On the other side of the mountain was a settlement called the "Separate". This is where the covert Christians in question lived.

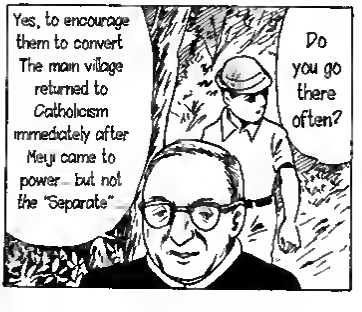
This settlement already existed when the people of the main village settled here. It was originally like a hidden village, and they were converted to Christianity by the missionary Diego, while he was hiding in Tohoku.


Perhaps the officials simply passed over them, or overlooked them because most of them suffered from dementia.
But because of that, they hardly interact with the main village.


But in the "Separate", there was not a single victim, and they held to their faith in secret ever since.
During the Crackdown of Ou, twenty people in the main village were martyred, while the rest renounced their faith.

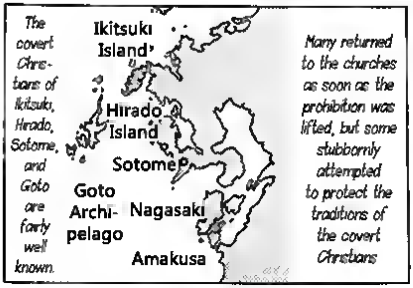

Zenji was actually one of the brighter ones. They'd been inbreeding for generations, after all.
Actually, it doesn't seem like that was complete nonsense.
They can't have all suffered from dementia.


And after a while, they started to transform, becoming mixed with the local legends.
Even after the missionaries stopped coming, they continued passing their traditions on orally.


Yes, to encourage them to convert. The main village returned to Catholicism immediately after Meiji came to power— but not the "Separate".
Do you go there often?

After the Tokugawa Shogunate's prohibition on Christianity, some Christians were martyred, some renounced, but some created a sort of a secret society and carried on their faith in secret

I finally understood the meaning of the word "heretic"

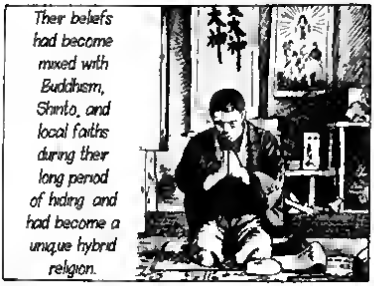


The covert Christians of Ikitsuki, Hirado, Sotome, and Goto are fairly well known.

Many returned to the churches as soon as the prohibition was lifted, but some stubbornly attempted to protect the traditions of the covert Christians

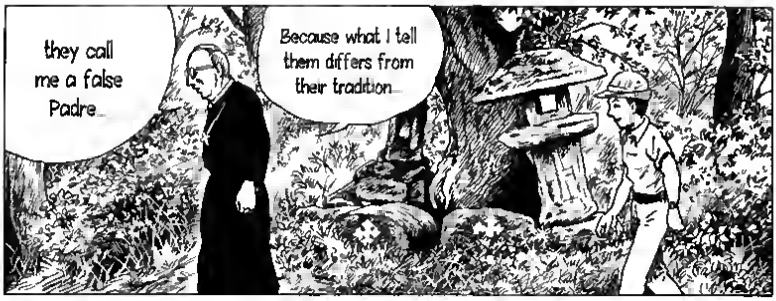
While they disguised themselves as Buddhists outwardly, they passed on their baptism and oratio (prayers) to their descendants, waiting for the return of the padres (missionaries)

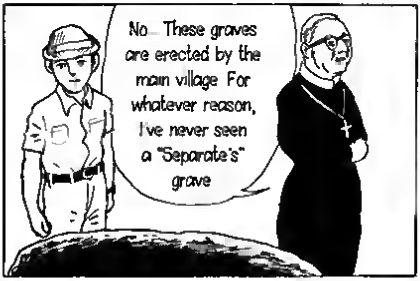
The "Beginnings of Heaven and Earth" passed down in the Nagasaki area, is a peculiar translation of the Bible resulting from those changes



Their beliefs had become mixed with Buddhism, Shinto, and local faiths during their long period of hiding and had become a unique hybrid religion.

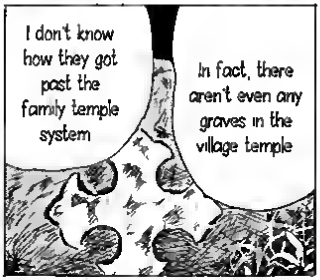
I imagine what it's like deep in the mountains. My hands are full with them
If that could happen in a place like Nagasaki...
And here in this deserted village of Tohoku, there is yet another bizarre "Bible" called "Sayings on the Beginning of the World"

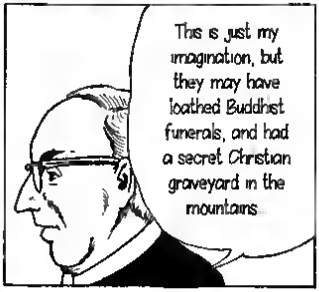

they call me a false Padre...
Because what I tell them differs from their tradition...


No... These graves are erected by the main village. For whatever reason, I've never seen a "Separate's" grave

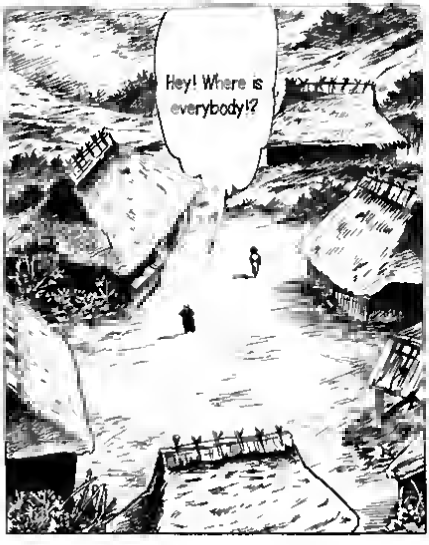
There's a Christian grave here in the mountains. Does it belong to the "Separates"?

Now, this is the "Separate" village


I don't know how they got past the family temple system
In fact, there aren't even any graves in the village temple

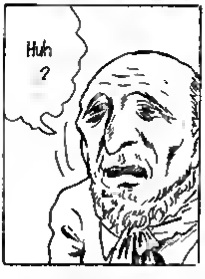

This is just my imagination, but they may have loathed Buddhist funerals, and had a secret Christian graveyard in the mountains

No, it can't be it's true that it's being depopulated...
Is it abandoned?


Hey! Where is everybody!?

But there were still at least ten people living here just a while ago

Nobody seems to be home, though

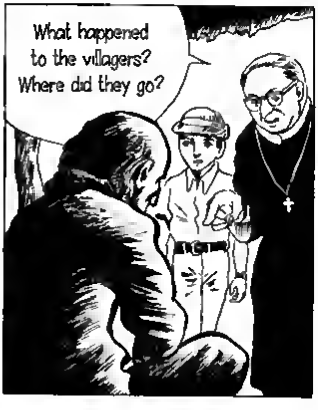

Huh ?

What happened to the others? Where did they go?

T-That's the elder Juta over there. Hey! Old Juta!

They went to Inferno

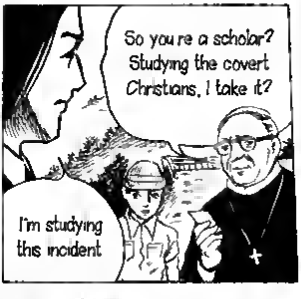
Then they'll go to Paraiso. They all went, except for me.
To where !?

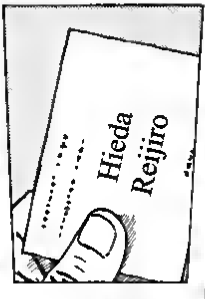

What happened to the villagers? Where did they go?

Zenzu...
Do you think this might have to do with Zenji's death?
Father...
I never have a clue what these people are saying...
So all the "Separates" did it together. We took him to Bone Mountain... nailed him...
What!? Who did you say did it!?
Sanjuwan commanded it...
I know. We all did it.
Do you know about how Zenji died...?
He's somewhat touched in the head. Take what he says with a grain of salt.
So all the people in this village are the perpetrators!?
ガラッ
But did the villagers kill Zenji and leave this place behind...?
Quite to the contrary. He was a man who would nurse the ill.
Was Zenji hated by the people here?

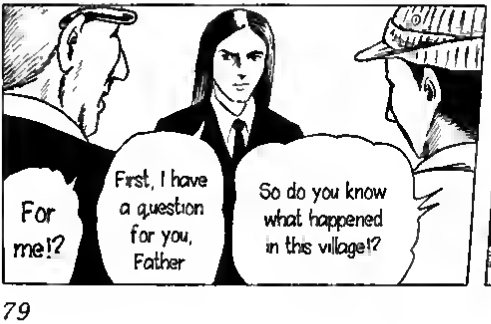
W...Who's there...!?

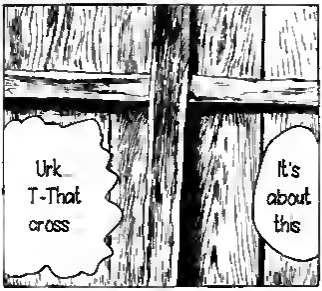
A tall city man in black clothes Is he the outsider?

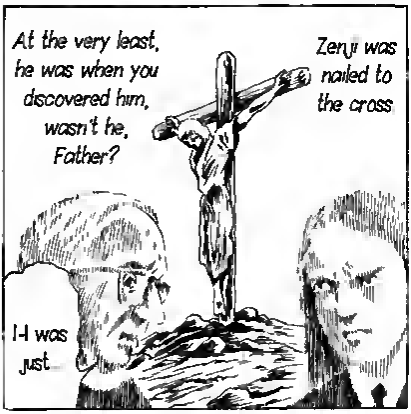

So you're a scholar? Studying the covert Christians, I take it?
I'm studying this incident

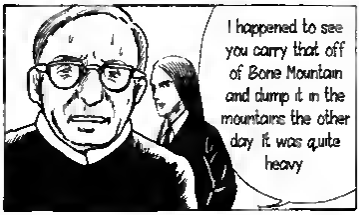

Hieda Reijiro

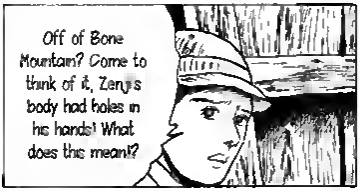
I'm not anyone suspicious I've come here for a study


For me!?
First, I have a question for you, Father
So do you know what happened in this village!?

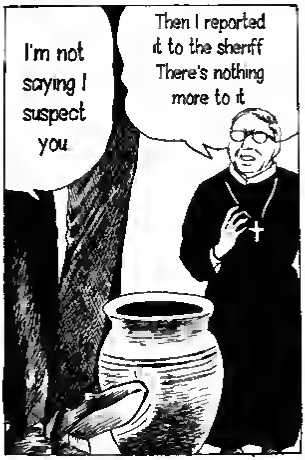

Urk... T-That cross
It's about this


At the very least, he was when you discovered him, wasn't he, Father?
Zenji was nailed to the cross
I-I was just...

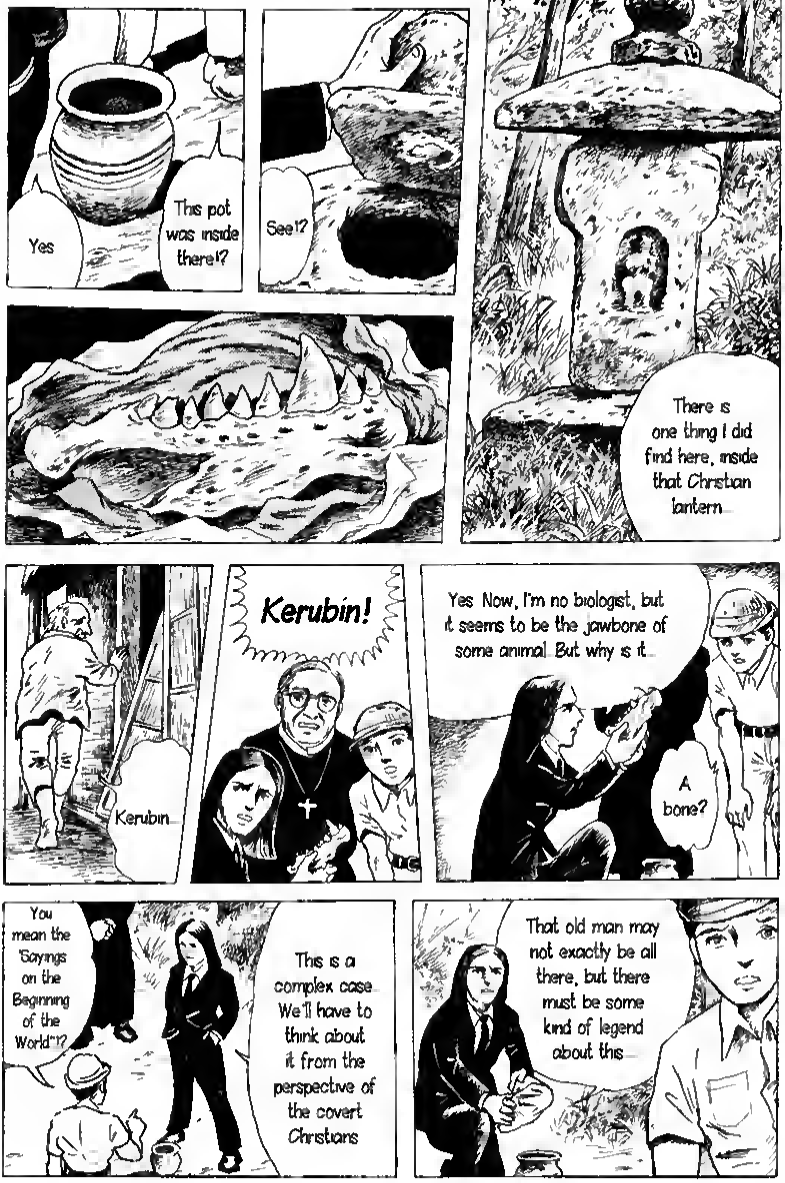

I happened to see you carry that off of Bone Mountain and dump it in the mountains the other day. It was quite heavy


Off of Bone Mountain? Come to think of it, Zenji's body had holes in his hands! What does this mean!?

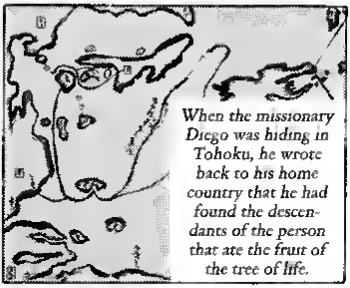
Zenji was mostly killed by the "Separates", like this old man says
This place was already abandoned by the time I came here, though...

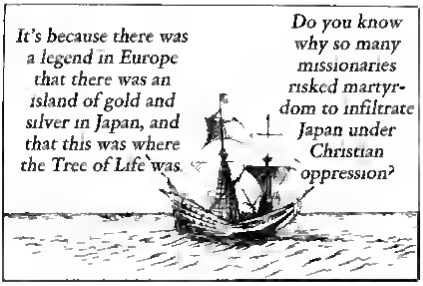

I'm not saying I suspect you...
Then I reported it to the sheriff. There's nothing more to it.

I was just afraid of a scandal, since this was a grotesque crime that blasphemed the Lord...
So as soon as I found Zenji, I hid the cross...


Yes
This pot was inside there!?
See!?
There is one thing I did find here, inside that Christian lantern...
Kerubin
Kerubin!
Yes. Now, I'm no biologist, but it seems to be the jawbone of some animal. But why is it...
A bone?
You mean the "Sayings on the Beginning of the World"!?
This is a complex case. We'll have to think about it from the perspective of the covert Christians
That old man may not exactly be all there, but there must be some kind of legend about this...

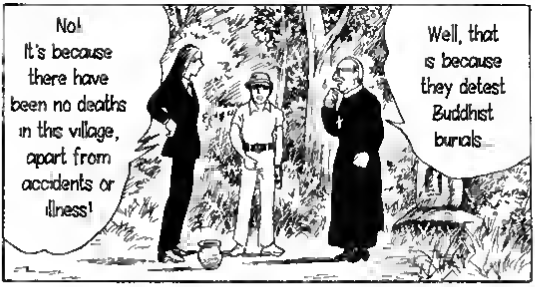
Because of this, Jusuheru's race became immortal. Fearing that the Earth would become filled with humans, God led him to "Inferno", and cast a curse upon his descendants...
According to this covert Christian apocrypha, Deus first created two humans named Adan (Adam) and Jusuheru.
Adan ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge and was cast out of paradise, just like in the Bible, but the other human, Jusuheru, ate the fruit of the tree of life.
And the Tree of Life is also described in the Bible
But here, there is another ancestor of mankind named Jusuheru
This is truly a bizarre version of Genesis. According to the Bible, God first created a man and a woman, named Adam and Eve...
Many heroes in the past had searched for this tree of life, but to no avail. Gilgamesh... Hercules...
If one were to eat of both of these trees, they would become like God
Because mankind had come to know good and evil, God protected the Tree of Life with the flaming sword of the Cherubim...
Ridiculous!
Cherubim... Kerubin!?


When the missionary Diego was hiding in Tohoku, he wrote back to his home country that he had found the descendants of the person that ate the fruit of the tree of life.


It's because there was a legend in Europe that there was an island of gold and silver in Japan, and that this was where the Tree of Life was.
Do you know why so many missionaries risked martyrdom to infiltrate Japan under Christian oppression?

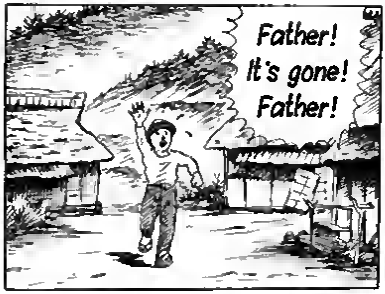
Aren't the people of this village quite long-lived?
Enough of this! Would you add to mankind's original sin?

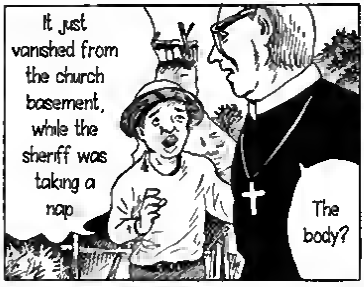
And right here, we have what they say is the bone of the Cherubim!

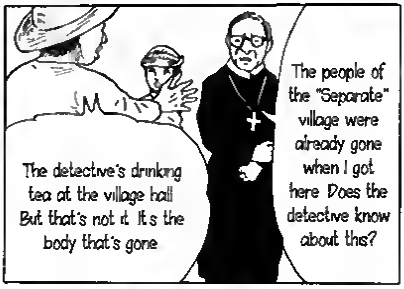

No! It's because there have been no deaths in this village, apart from accidents or illness!
Well, that is because they detest Buddhist burials...

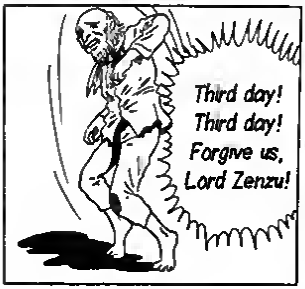
Besides, I've looked in the old records of this temple, and found that there are hardly any funerals in the "Separate" village

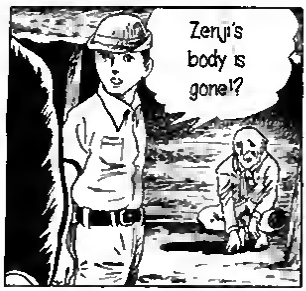
They all just vanish, like they have now!

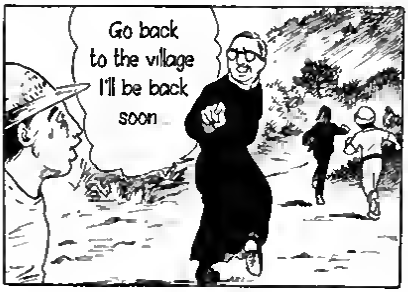

Father!
It's gone!
Father!

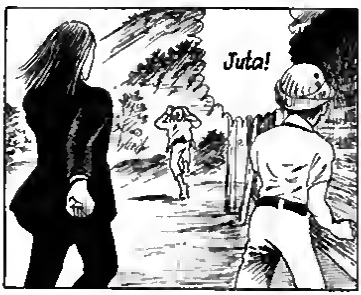

It just vanished from the church basement, while the sheriff was taking a nap
The body?


The detective's drinking tea at the village hall But that's not it. It's the body that's gone
The people of the "Separate" village were already gone when I got here. Does the detective know about this?


Third day!
Third day!
Forgive us, Lord Zenzu!


Zenji's body is gone!?

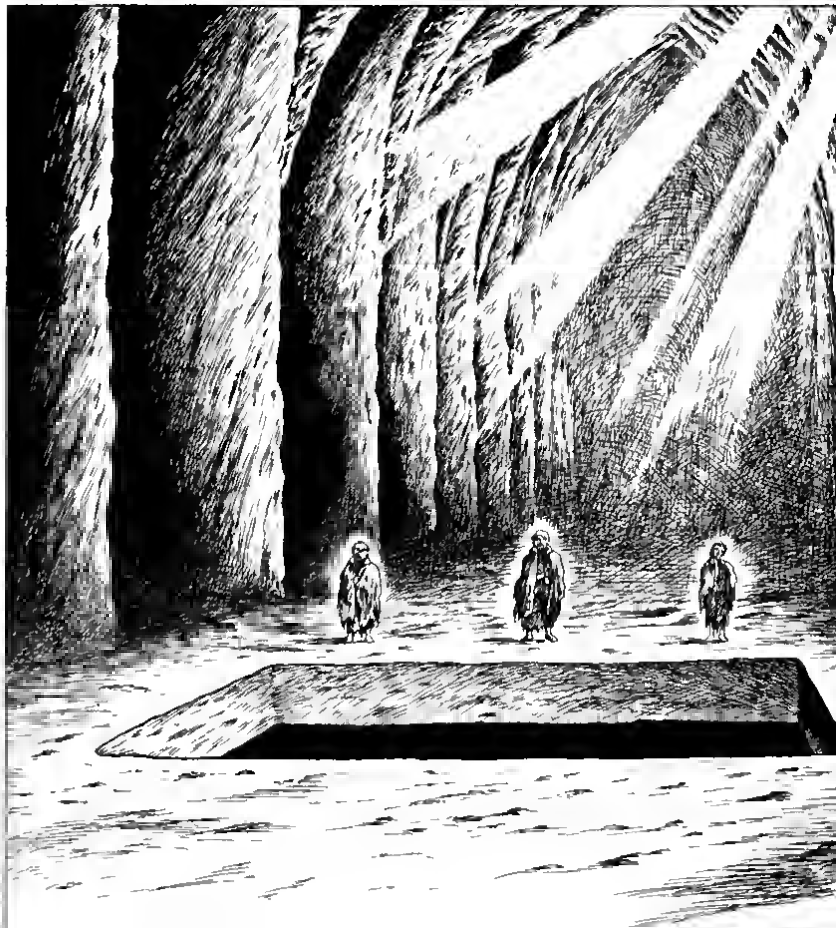

Go back to the village I'll be back soon


Juta!

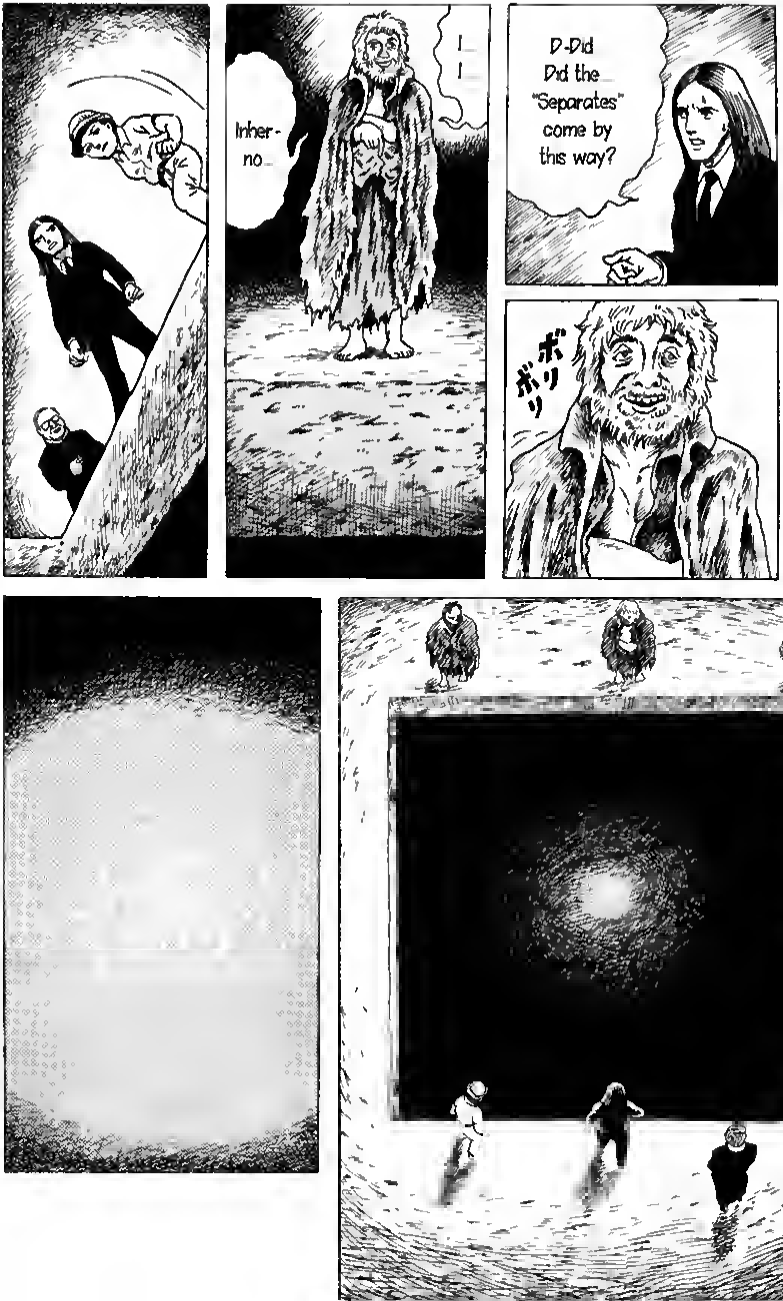
Juta! Why did you run away?
The third day Lord Zenzu will return on *Poroheshasu* O Sanjuwan.

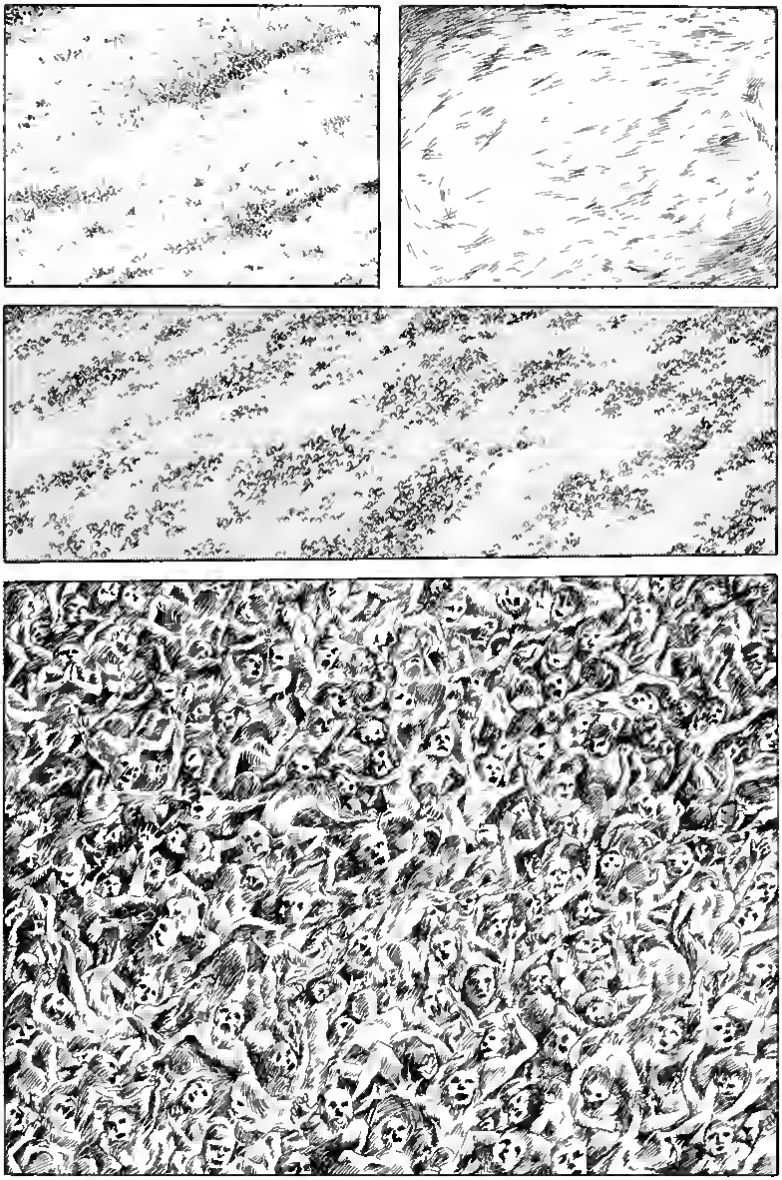
This looks just like the sanctuary of a Gothic cathedral, made out of stone.

Is this the covert Christians' place of worship!?



Sanjuwan is a corruption of St. John it doesn't mean three people How ridiculous
Forgive me, Sanjuwan Please intercede for me
Pardon me, but who are you? You're not "Separates", are you?
What's with them? They almost seem demented
Hehe... hehe he...


Inher-
no…
I…
I…
D-Did
Did the…
"Separates"
come by
this way?
ボリ
ボリ



Inferno? Jusuheru, the man who ate the fruit of the tree of life? On top of that, they crucified that man... Blasphemy!
They're all mad! God give me strength!
In the Bible, "Golgotha is Calvary, the place of the skull"... Hence, Bone Mountain!
That's it! Then there's Mt. Karubari!
Isn't Zenzu a corruption of Zezus (Jesus)? And Juta is Judatsu (Judas)
Didn't he say Zenzu ...?
Nonsense? How could Christ come from these idiotic people? By the Holy Spirit...!
You hid the cross because you knew that, Father
When Zenzu died, there was an earthquake He is Christ!
The "Separates" are the cursed descendants of Jusuheru They are immortal, but when a certain time comes, they are dragged beneath the Earth
Idiotic? That's right Jusuheru ate the fruit of the tree of life, but not the fruit of the tree of knowledge Adan did the opposite

"and their suffering will not cease until the return of *Krinto*"...!
Lord Zenzu!
Christ resurrected in three days...
Impossible! He was dead! And rotting!

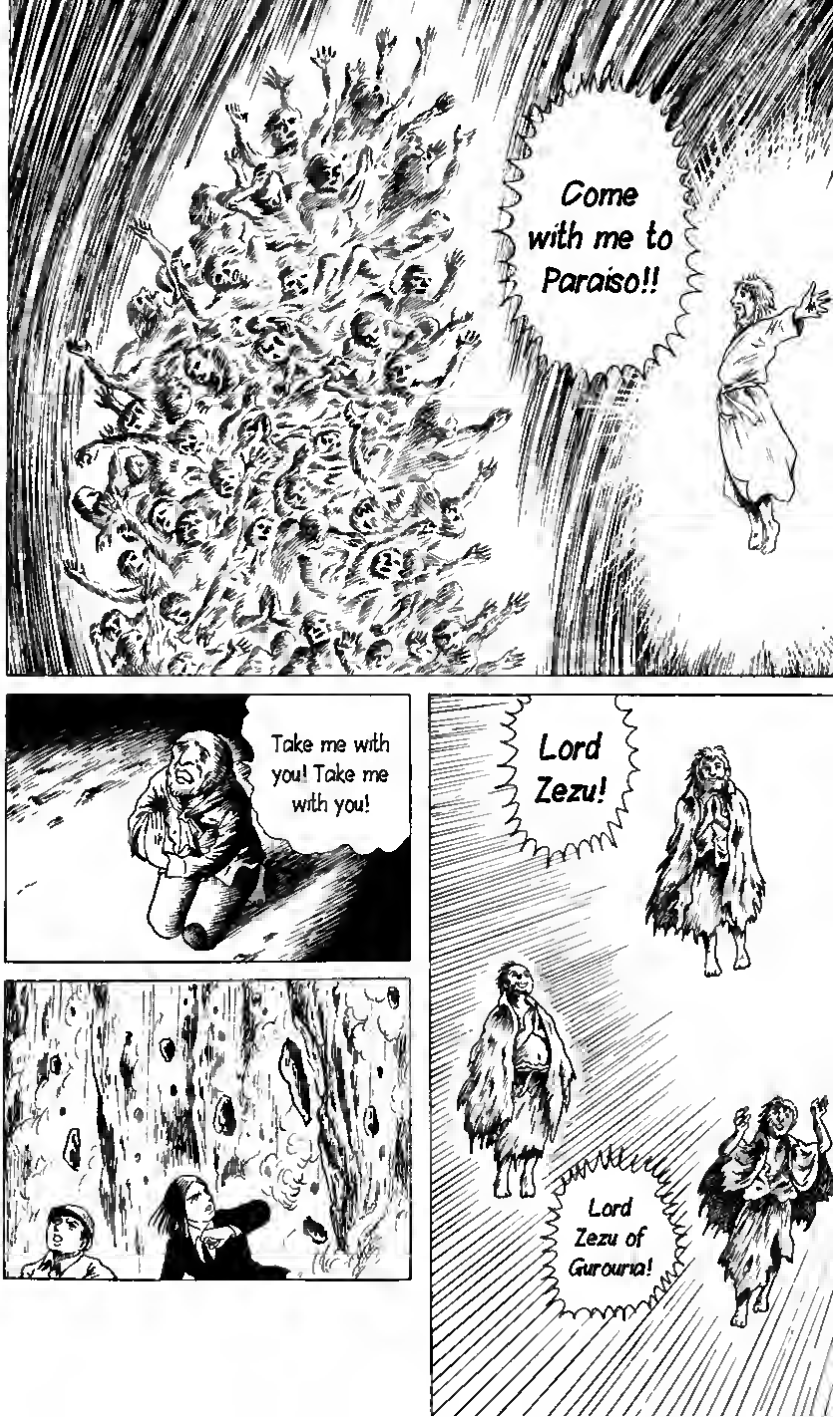
The Jesus of the Bible only saved the descendants of Adam. The descendants of *Jusuheru* needed a Christ to save them!

As they writhe underground for eternity, never capable of dying !

L L
Lord Zezu

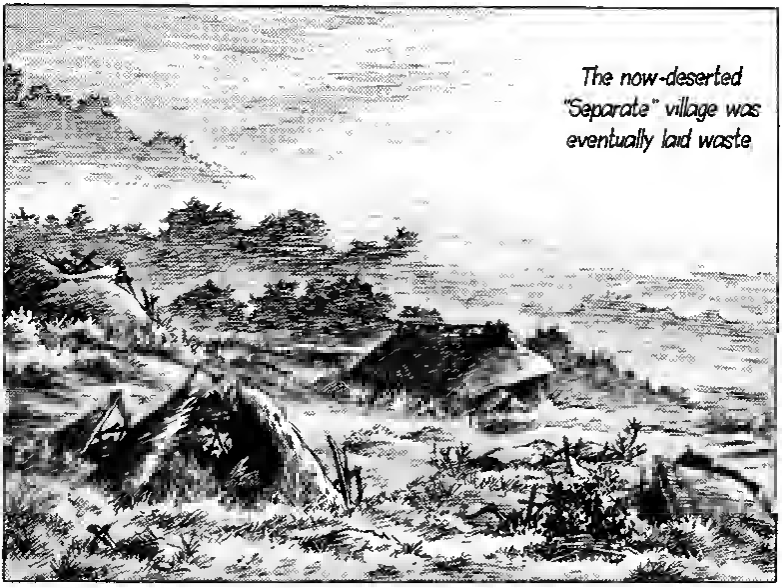
No! There is only one God, you demon !

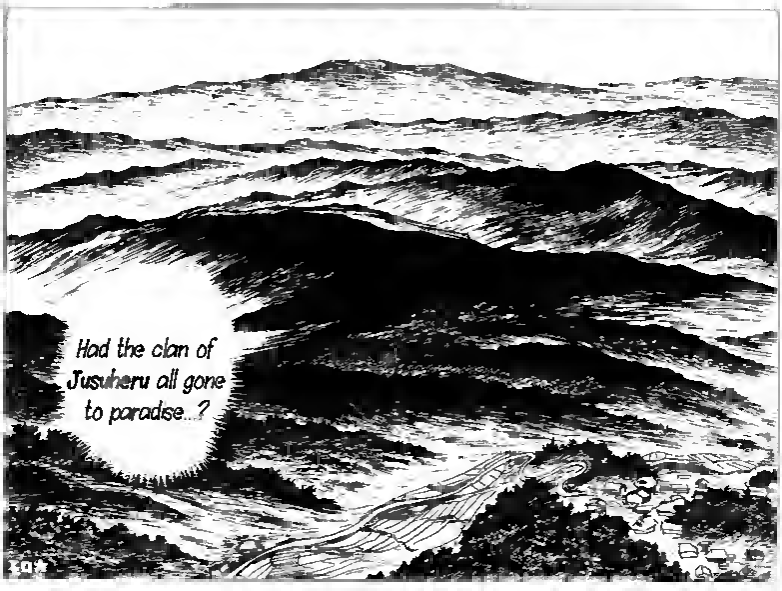
妖怪ハンター


Come with me to Paraiso!!
Take me with you! Take me with you!
Lord Zezu!
Lord Zezu of Gurouria!

All that was left was a massive cross of light, which could be seen from the next village over.

It all seemed to vanish in the light...


The now-deserted "Separate" village was eventually laid waste


Had the clan of Jusuheru all gone to paradise...?

YOKAI HUNTER

BY MOROHOSHI DAIJIRO

Chapter 3

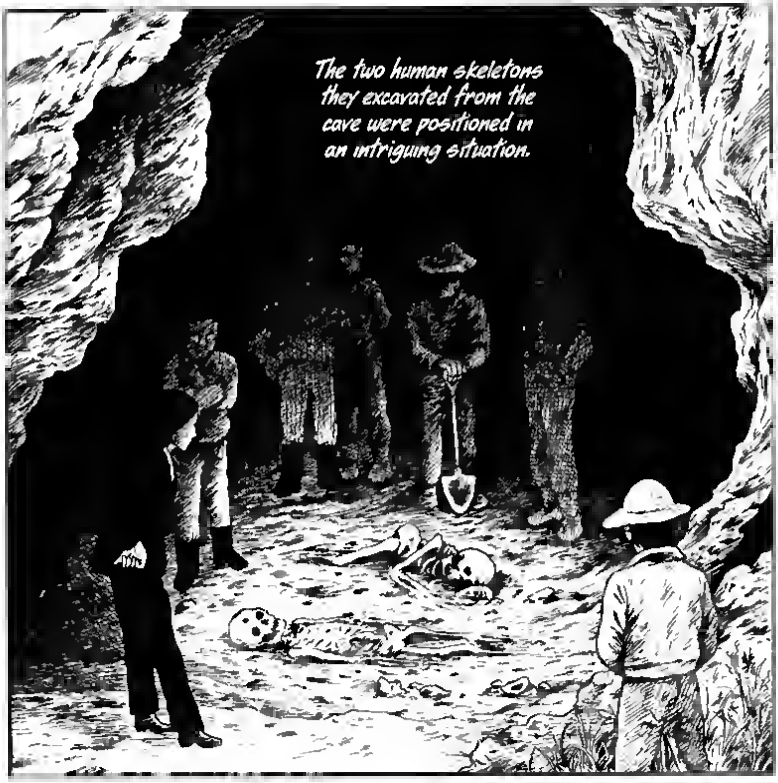
Presented by Hokuto no Gun and Happy Scans

Translated by Systematcichaos

Cleaned by Hightide

Typesetting by Kazuhiko

Chapter 4:
The Masked Face in the Dark



The other appeared to belong to an old man. It appeared to have collapsed from a sitting position in front of the young man..
One belonged to a young man. It was laid out on the floor of the cave, with a small hole in it's forehead.
They also unearthed mid-Jomon clay figurines, angler pottery black with soot. some small fragments of pottery and stone arrowheads.
Right next to the skull, they unearthed a mask, which he most likely wore when he was alive.
who lit the pottery next to him, put on a mask, and performed the ritual of death.
The young skeleton was the entombed, and the other one was a sorcerer.
What do you think, Mr Hieda?
I think that this cave was used for funerary vigils
And why is the sorcerer's skeleton still beside him?
But there are still no discovered cases of trepanation in Japan
And they may have performed a ritual surgery like trepanation on him, judging by the hole in his forehead

That's possible, and it's also possible that he followed him to death
Perhaps there was some kind of sudden accident, and he died in the cave?
It's quite strange, indeed
I am... Are you a newspaper reporter?
Are you with the excavation team? Pardon me for asking... but are you an archaeologist?
Hieda heard this man's strange tale. He had come to this area to hunt, and had gotten lost.
If you don't mind me asking, did you find any skeletons? Maybe one wearing a mask?
No, not exactly Well...
No, this doesn't make sense The cave was just barely excavated Only authorized personnel know about it
...! Who told you that!?

That's strange...
In the deep mist, I felt like I'd been trapped in a ring wanderung.
I'm back here again
That's when I noticed that this milestone I saw belonged in the middle of a field, but there was nothing but thick mountain forests as far as the eye can see.

This is a beaten path, even if only slightly
Oh
But I figured that there were probably similar kinds of stones in the mountains, too.
ガサ
ガサ
ギクッ
Who would do this ?
This eerie feeling kept creeping up on me

Phew
I'll wait for the mist to clear in this cave
Is someone there!?
ギョッ
Wahh!!
ガサッ

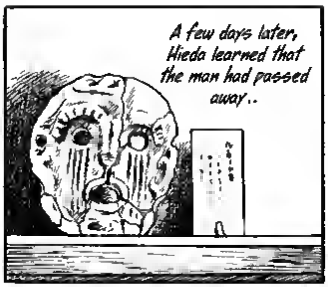
Uaao
ooooo
hhhhh
hhhh!
That was the moment when I fell into complete confusion.

TOKOI!
TOKOI!
and I reached the village at the foot of the mountain, my legs about to give out.
I don't even remember how far I ran. But before I knew it, the mist had lifted.
I ran through the mist in a trance.
But after that, I started having strange dreams
AHHHHH...
AHHH...
I didn't hear any news about bodies being discovered in the mountains.
I thought I was simply hallucinating in the mist.

A man wearing a mask...
AHHHH...
AHH...
Sorrowful cries and wails ...
And eventually, the cries turned into a strange chant.
TOKOI...
TOKOI...
And the body of the young man I had shot in the mist... The cave was lit up by a clay lamp...
I've hardly gotten any sleep in days
That's right. And they come every night
Tokoi... He was saying Tokoi?
I don't know what to do
I've gone to a psychiatrist, but with no results...
If I fall asleep, I see the dream, but if I stay awake, I'll end up exhausted.

And he was still having that dream.
Even after the skeletons and mask were repaired and stored in separate exhibits, I got a letter from the man...
I can tell that I am breaking down.
TOKOI...
TOKOI...
The dreams are becoming ever clearer and ever stronger. They are tormenting me.
Strangely enough, as time passes, the masked man appears to weaken day by day.
Every time I have that dream, it takes a little bit of my life away.
And the lines under the eyes of the mask are the man's tears.
And yet the man's grudge grows stronger and stronger. He was the father of the man I shot to death.

...ドン


A few days later, Hieda learned that the man had passed away..

And the sorcerer whose son was killed was casting a curse of vengeance on that man across time..
He may have wandered into a "ring wanderung of time" in the mist.

"Tokoi" is an ancient word that means "curse"...
And as he accomplished his goal, he died within the cave, his mind and body completely spent.

TOKOI...
TOKOI...

YOKAI HUNTER

BY MOROHOSHI DAIJIRO

Chapter 4

Presented by Hokuto no Gun and Happy Scans

Translated by Systematcichaos

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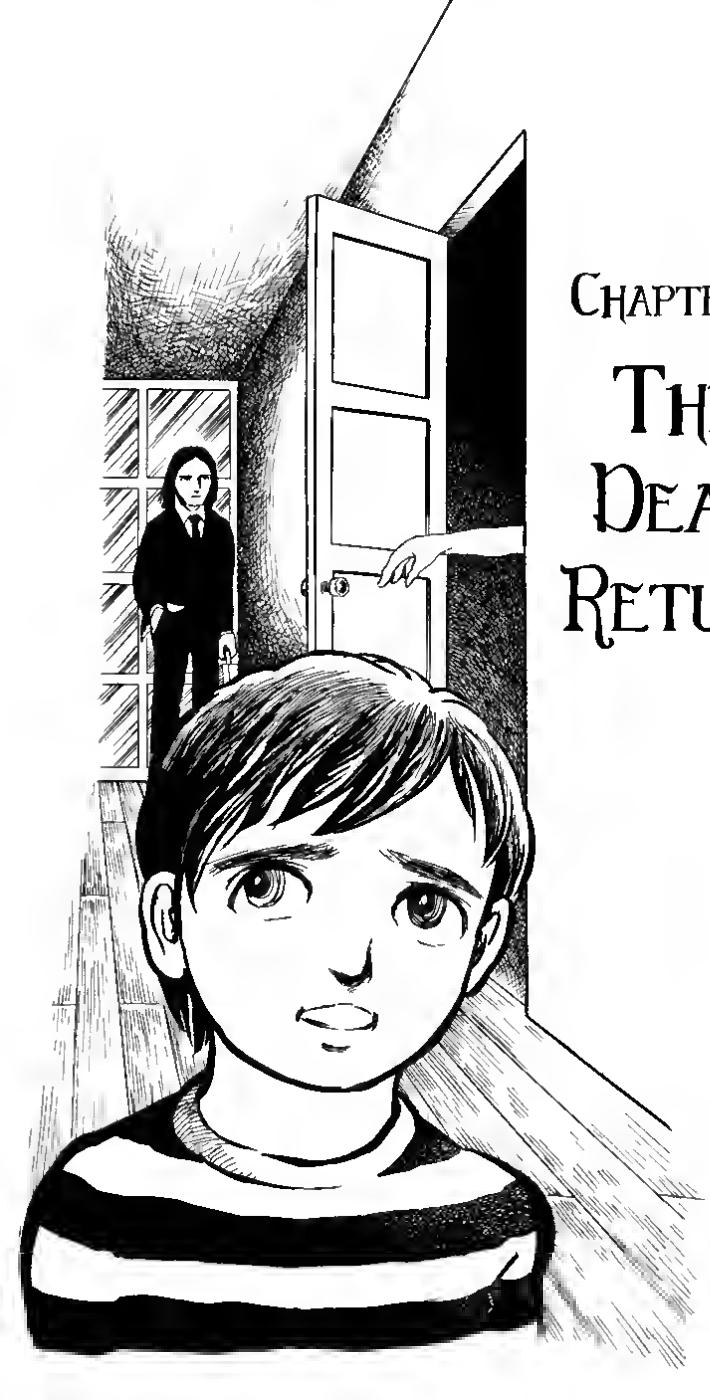
Typesetting by Kazuhiko



Chapter 5:
The Dead Return

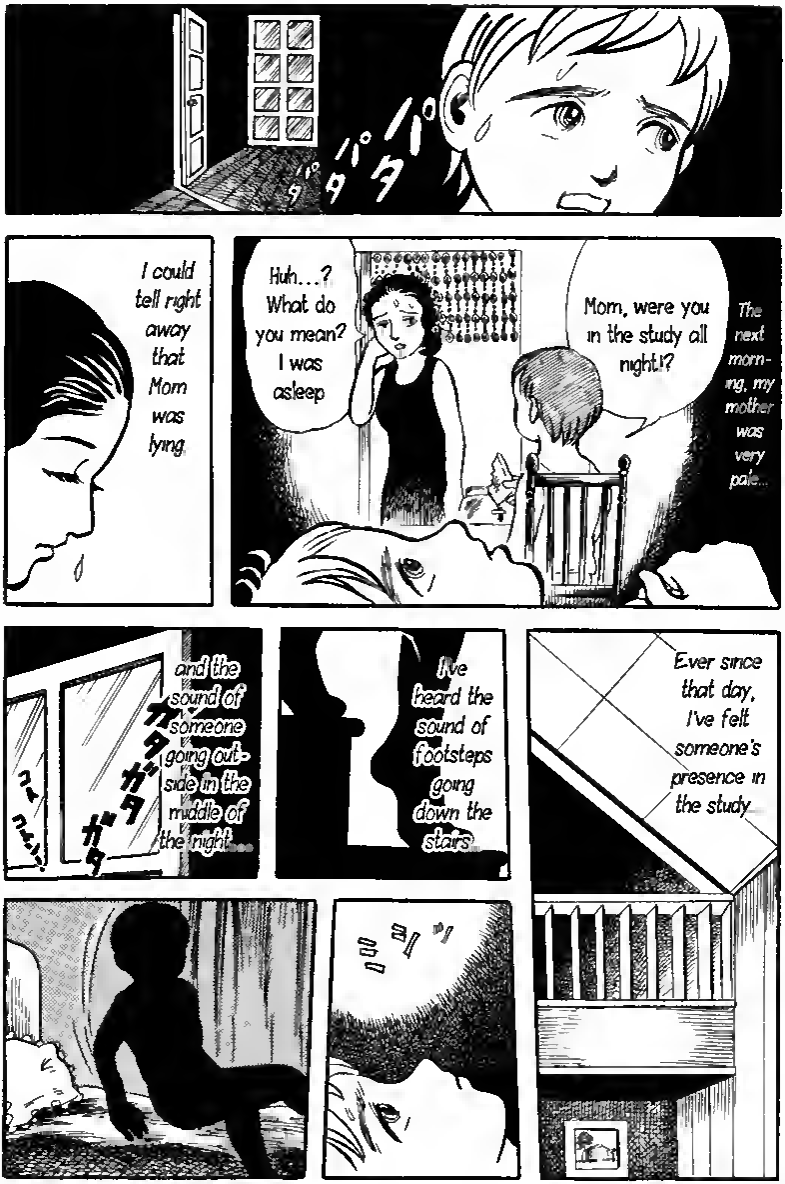
ビュウウウ
ガタガタガタ

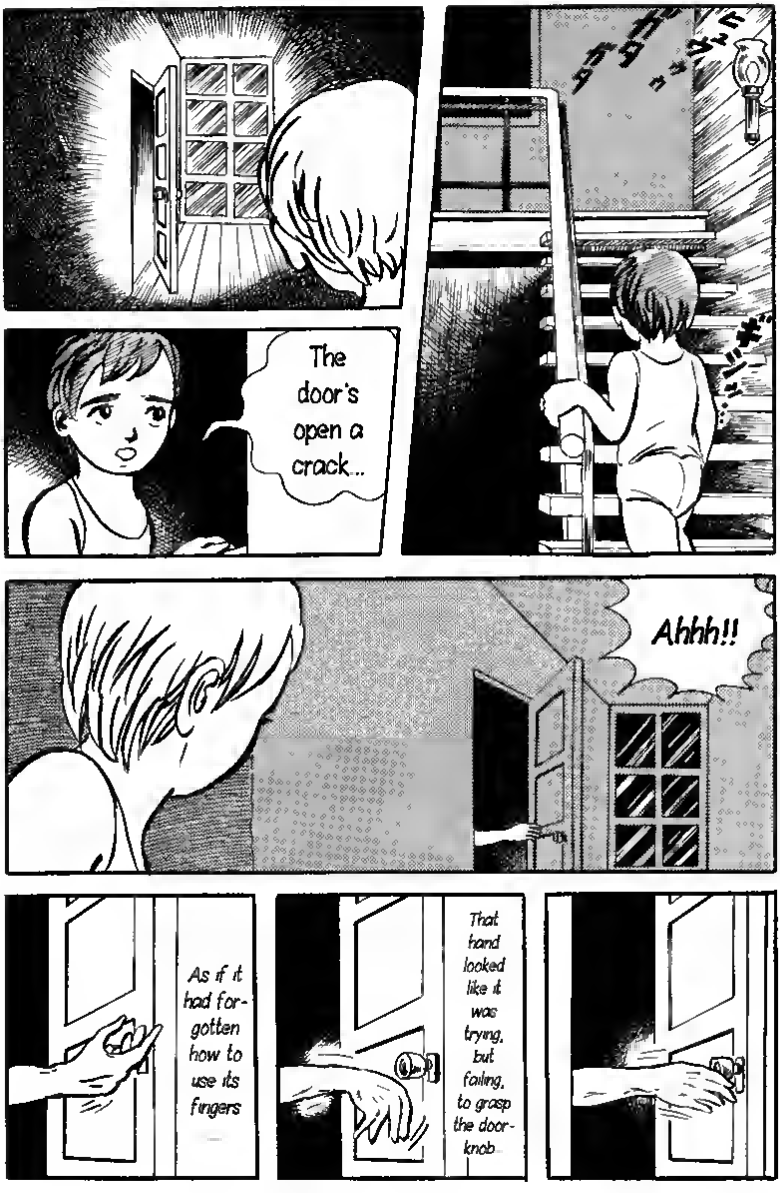
I first noticed a long time ago

ギシ
ギシッ
ガタ
ガタ
ガタ
In this big house I live in with my mother there was someone else

Is it Dad...?
No, it can't be Dad died last month...
ギシ…
There it is again... It's in the study
Mom was strange to begin with...
Your father's old study...? I've decided to have it boarded off The memories are just too painful...
And I was actually sad, too...
Well, of course... she was really sad when Dad died a sudden death...
Huh!?
At least... I think that's what she said
Please try to keep the bones as intact as possible I'd like to have them all to lay to rest...
But at Dad's cremation, Mom said...

I had a hard time sleeping that night
On top of that, after the ceremony ended, I saw Mom carrying a big package inside
Is there a light on in Dad's study !?
Mom...
Whisper whisper whisper
Mom, are you in here !?
Ahhh...!!


タパパ
I could tell right away that Mom was lying.
Huh...? What do you mean? I was asleep
Mom, were you in the study all night!?
The next morning, my mother was very pale...
and the sound of someone going outside in the middle of the night...
ガタガタ
I've heard the sound of footsteps going down the stairs.
Ever since that day, I've felt someone's presence in the study.


The door's open a crack...
Ahhh!!
As if it had forgotten how to use its fingers
That hand looked like it was trying, but failing, to grasp the doorknob

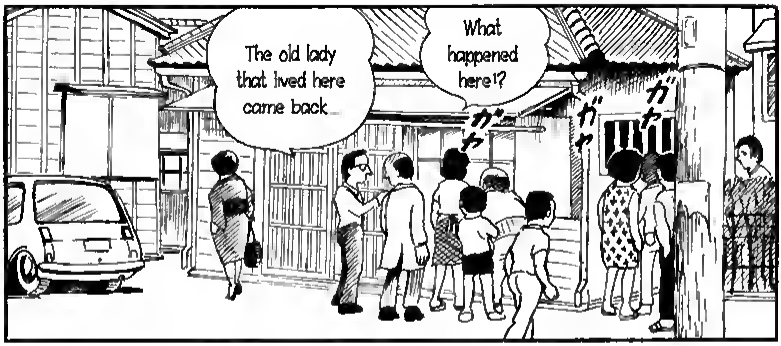
パタン……

You're lying! I saw a hand last night..!!
T...There's no one there

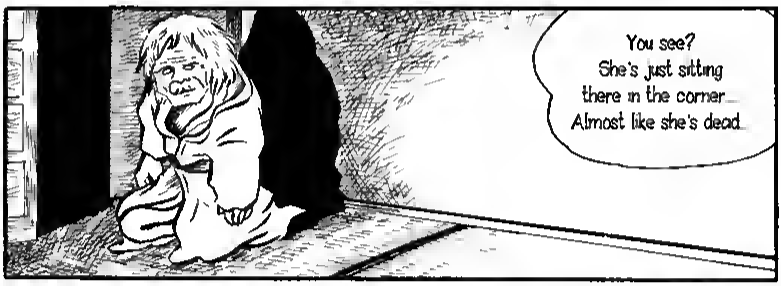
Mom! Is there someone in that room!?
…ゴク

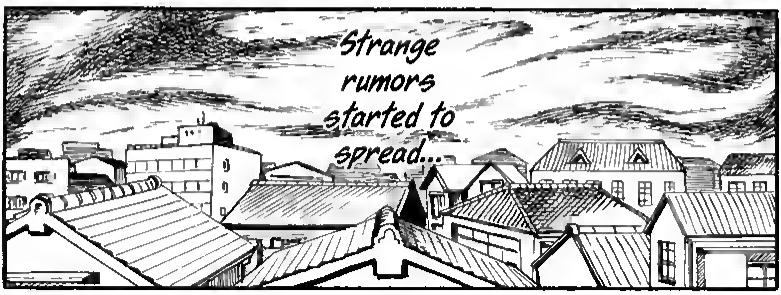
You must've been seeing things
MIDNIGHT GRAVE-ROBBER
A PRANK!? BONES STOLEN

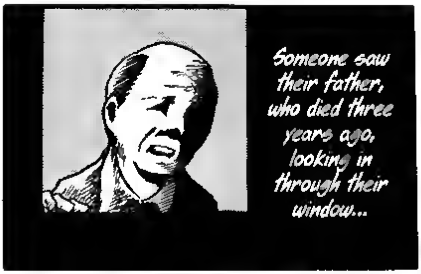
ズ
ズル
ズッ
ガタガタガタ
ガタ
ズ
AIIIEEEEEE!
Who's there!?
ガラガラ


The old lady that lived here came back...
What happened here!?
ガヤ
ガヤ
ガヤ

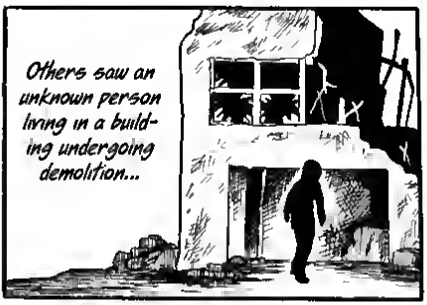
Maybe she was just confused for the old lady, like a doppelganger!?
Then it must be a ghost! ! In the middle of the day !
You moron! The old lady passed away last month!!
What, is that it !?


You see? She's just sitting there in the corner... Almost like she's dead...

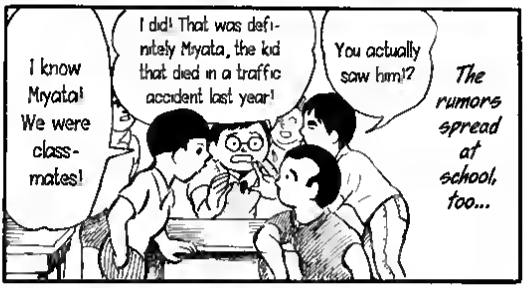

Strange rumors started to spread...

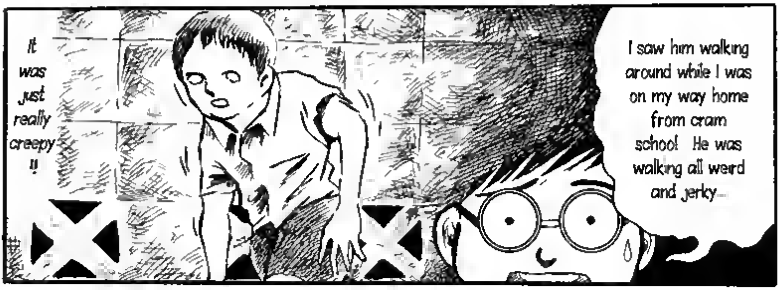

Someone saw their father, who died three years ago, looking in through their window...

They said that long-dead people were wandering around town...


Others saw an unknown person living in a building undergoing demolition...

Come to think of it... They said there was someone robbing bones from graves And the Miyatas were one of the families that got robbed


I know Miyata! We were classmates!
I did! That was definitely Miyata, the kid that died in a traffic accident last year!
You actually saw him!?
The rumors spread at school, too...


It was just really creepy !!
I saw him walking around while I was on my way home from cram school. He was walking all weird and jerky...

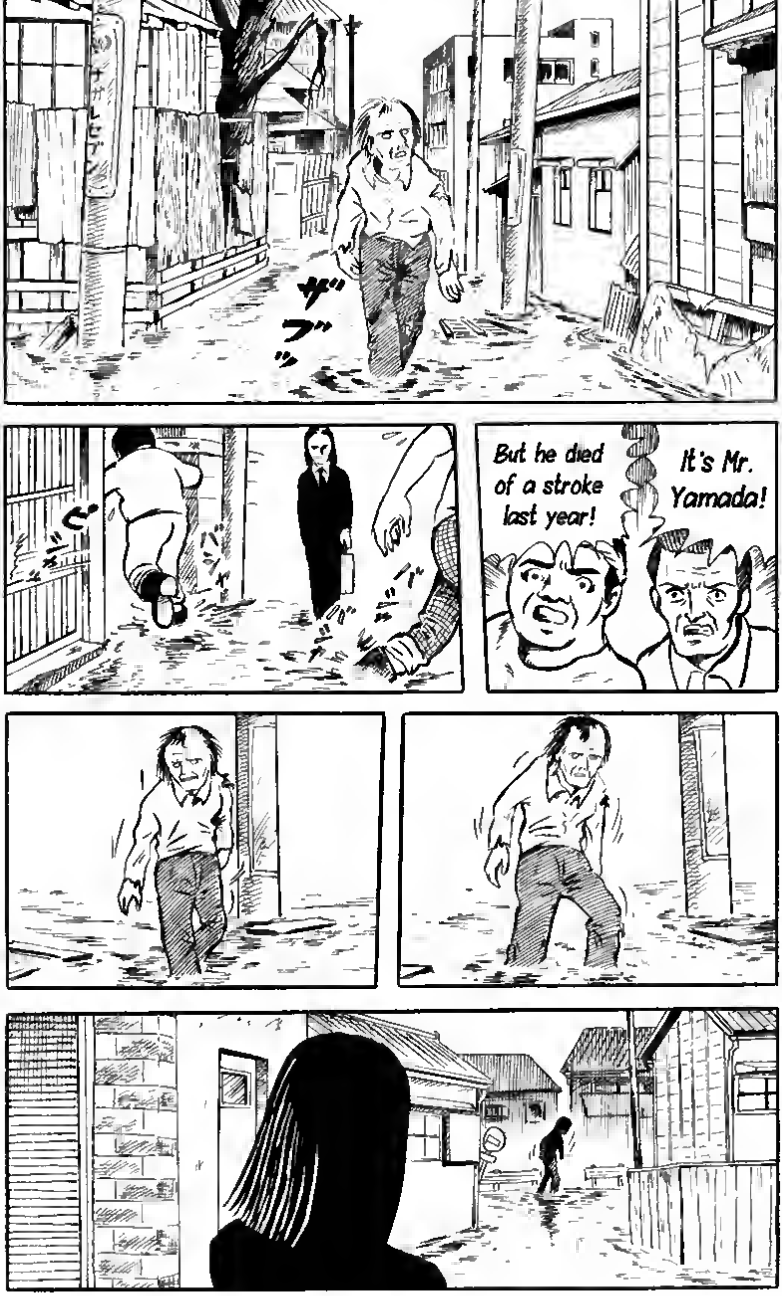
That year, a typhoon came earlier than usual...
ガタ
ガタガタ
バタン
バタン
ガタガタガタ
ガタ
ガタ
バタン
バタン
バタン
There's a window open upstairs. Is it Mom's !?

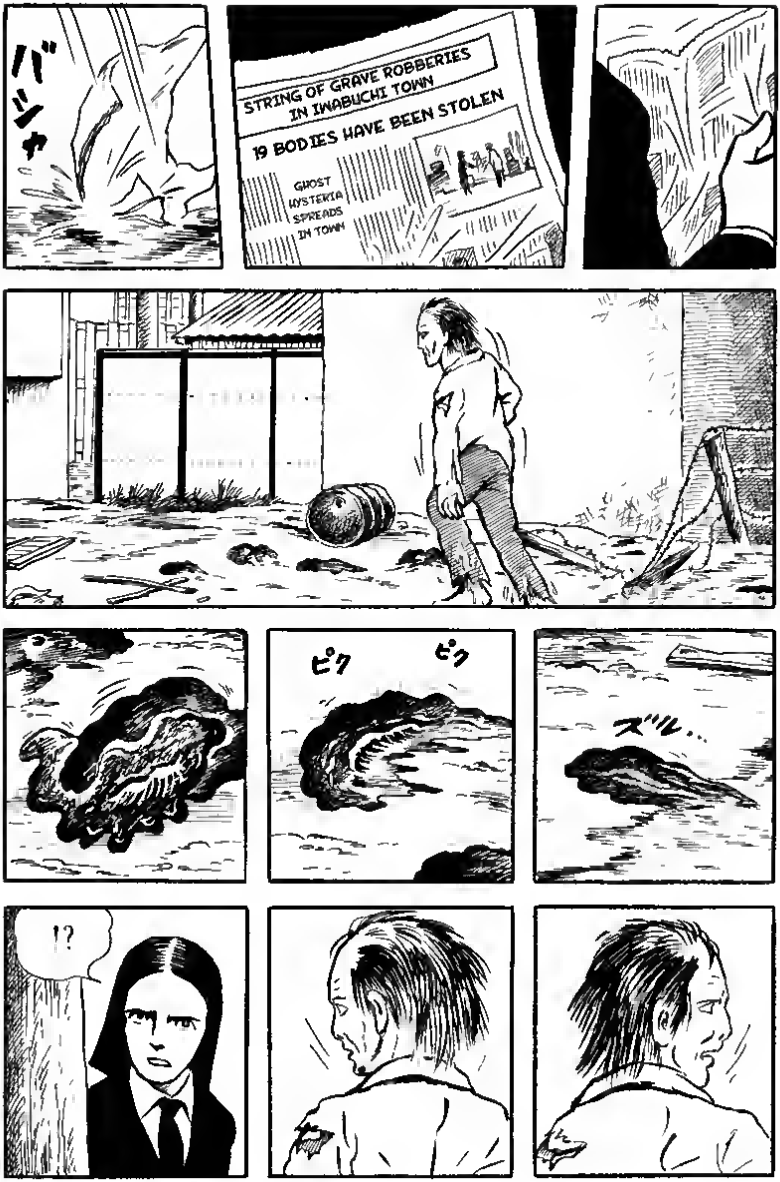
バタン
バタ
It's the door to the study
バタン
ザアアアアア

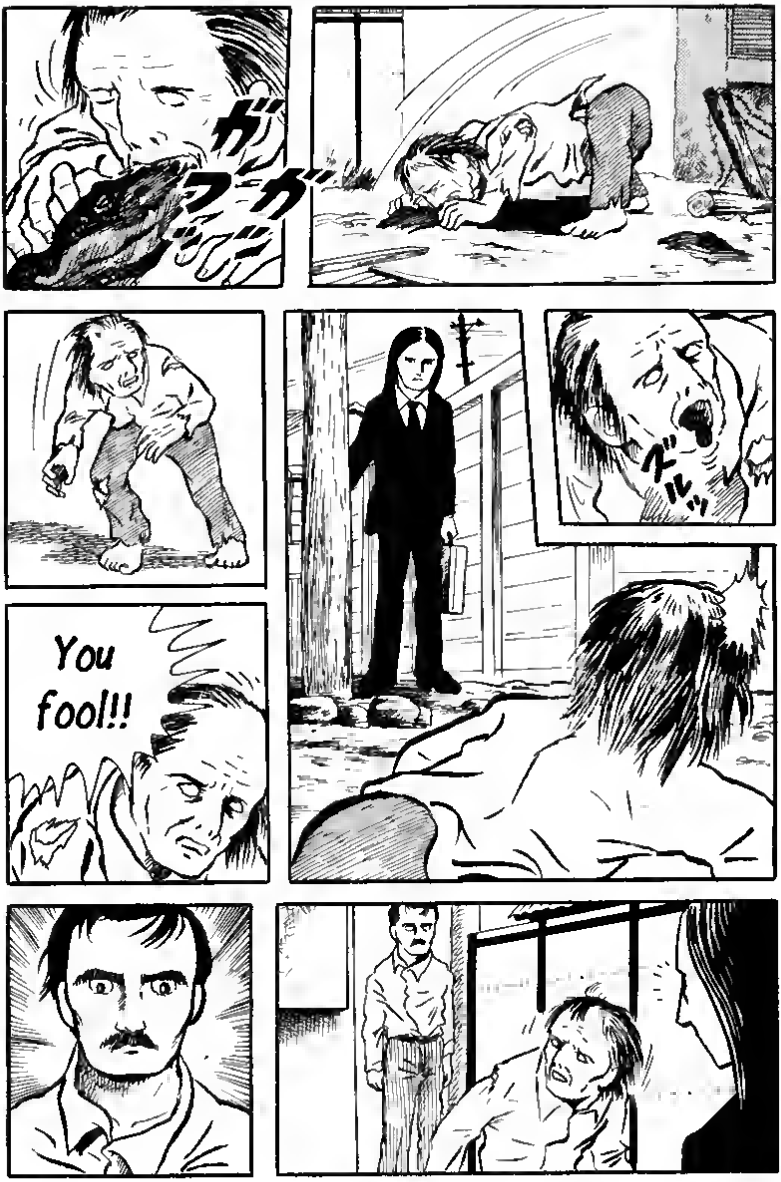
That's not your dad. It's your uncle.
D... Dad!!
I never knew Dad had a brother. He wasn't even there at the funeral...
He's going to be staying at our house for a while. Now go back to your room.
Mom!

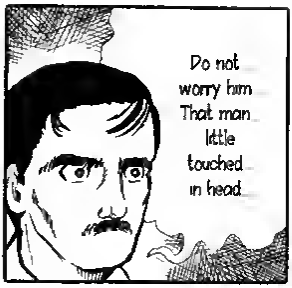
ガタガタガタ
No!
That's not Dad!
It can't be Dad!
They're probably just trash that floated up from the sewer
What're those black things floating around in the water!?
Well, that's what happens when a typhoon goes by
Sure is a nasty flood The sewers overflown

Sir, I'm afraid I can't take you any further The flooding's too bad
ザバ ザバ ザバ
ブルル
バタン!
This is good enough Thanks
ブロロ
Hey, look!!
ザブ…

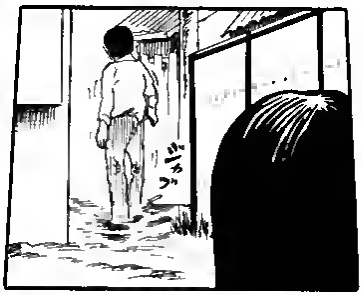

ザブッ
But he died of a stroke last year!
It's Mr. Yamada!


バシャ
STRING OF GRAVE ROBBERIES IN IWABUCHI TOWN
19 BODIES HAVE BEEN STOLEN
GHOST HYSTERIA SPREADS IN TOWN
ピク
ピク
ズル…
!?


ガブッ
ゲルッ
You fool!!

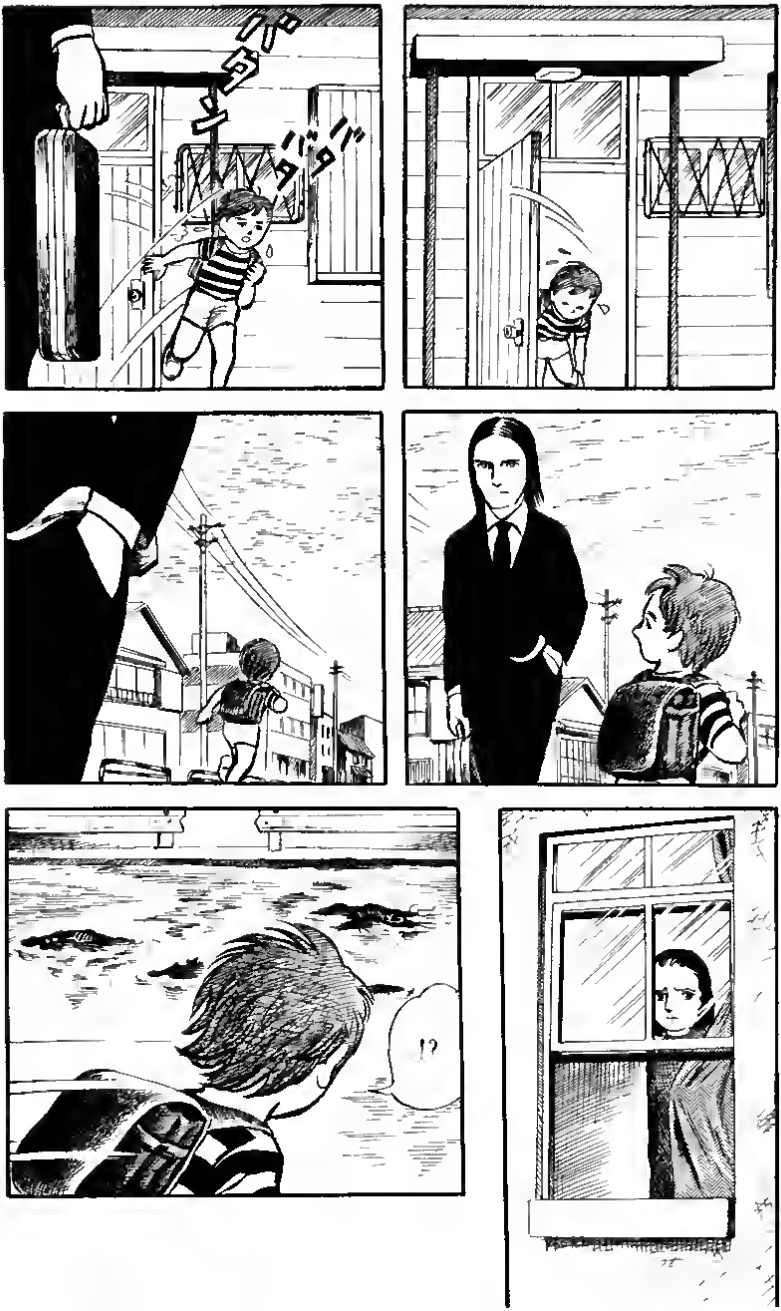

Do not worry him That man little touched in head

That's strange That's not how a human walks Could it be



...the Soul Return Spell!?

Someone in this town has cast the Soul Return Spell


バタバタ
バタバタ
!?

バタバタバタ
Ahh!!
Oh, no!
I'm late
ピク
ピク
ズルル…
ズ.
……?

Huh...? Th...The classroom's filled with mist...!?
The teacher... and Micchan... and Hiroi, and the whole classroom
W...Wa... Waaah...!?

They're all blending together!!
T... They're all melting into one...
Waa augh ...!
Ahh!

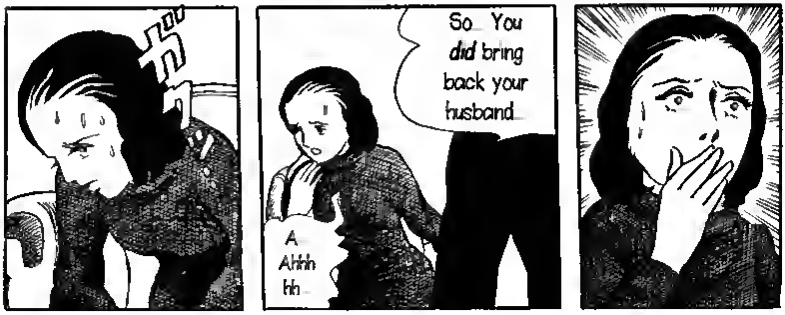
T...The school... The school ...!!
Almost done Tonight we summon Him

Mr. Hieda... was it? I don't know how many times I have to tell you, but my husband passed away... last month...
I...
have been studying and analyzing the recent rumors and grave-robbing cases in the town. And I found... a perfect correlation between the robbed graves and the ghosts in the rumors
They may be rumors now, but they could become something far worse
However... Your husband's bones are the only ones that haven't been stolen... Or at the very least, his grave hasn't been robbed!
Oh, dear! Do you really take those foolish rumors seriously!?

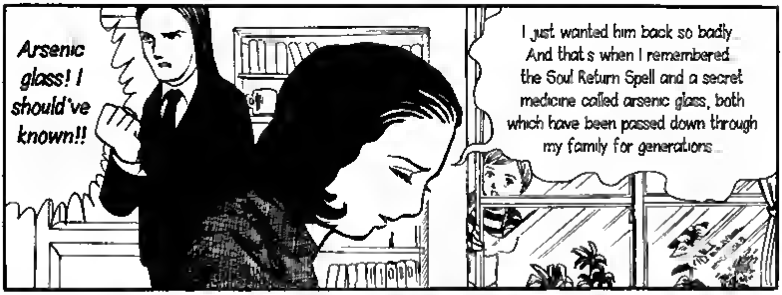
E..Enough of these strange excuses! Get out of here!
Please don't hide this from me! Your husband is at the center of this incident! I know you know something!
I couldn't help but notice that you're from W..... Prefecture, in the Kinki region, and from a rather ancient family, too
Oh, dear! How do you know that!?
Are you aware of the Soul Return Spell!?
And there are clans that have passed down the spell of the Soul Return...
There is still a legend of the "Return of the Dead" that remains there...
Long ago... A demon appeared from the darkness deep within an empty waste-land...

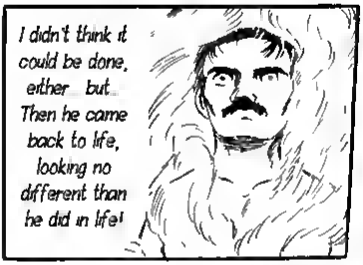
It gathered the scattered bones, and used a spell to restore people from those bones. Quite a dreadful legend, I must say...

N...No, of course not... I only wanted my husband...!
Do you intend to dig up all the graves in town and bring the dead back to life, just like that demon did!?


So... You did bring back your husband...
A Ahhh hh...

I was so lonely after I lost my husband
Mo
M
Mom!


Arsenic glass! I should've known!!
I just wanted him back so badly... And that's when I remembered the Soul Return Spell and a secret medicine called arsenic glass, both which have been passed down through my family for generations...

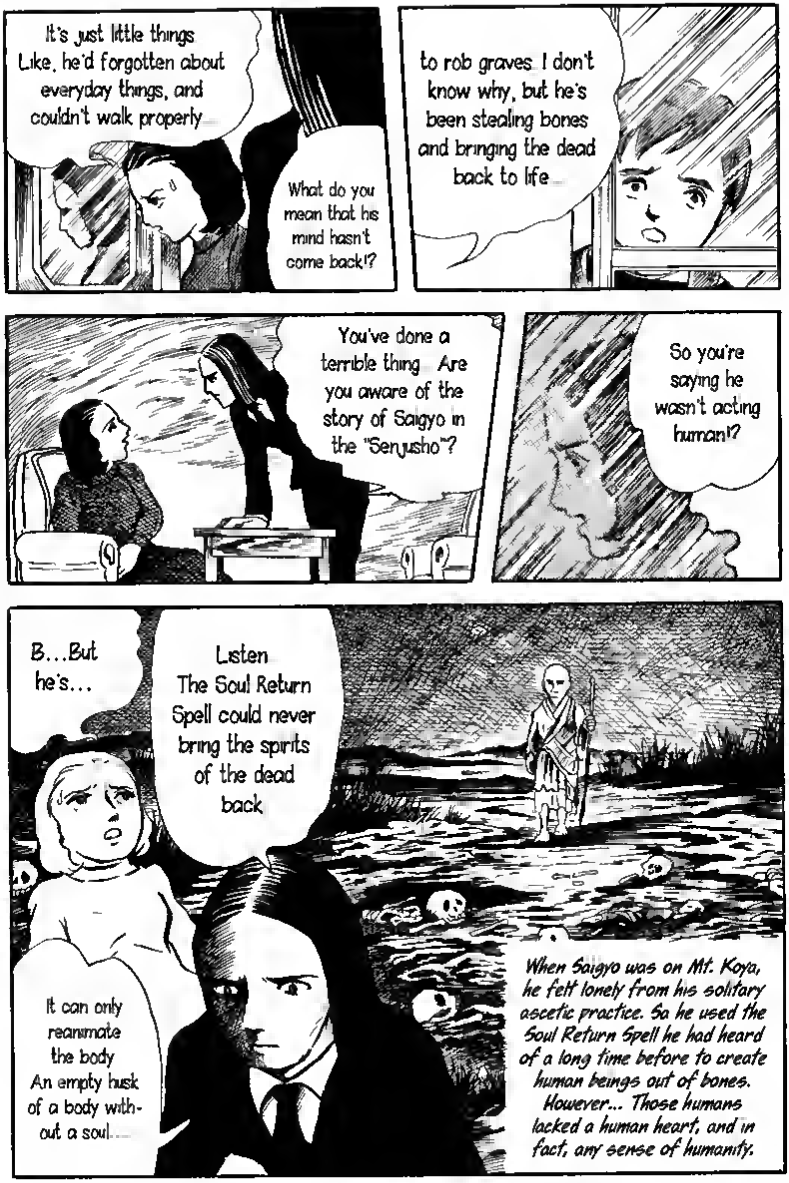

I didn't think it could be done, either... but... Then he came back to life, looking no different than he did in life!

During the burial, I replaced my husband's urn with an urn filled with stones. I took his bones back, coated them with arsenic glass, and tied them together with string... Then... I cast the Soul Return Spell...

I was just happy that he had come back, even if his mind hadn't...

If He just acts a little strange. He's the one who's gone outside at night.

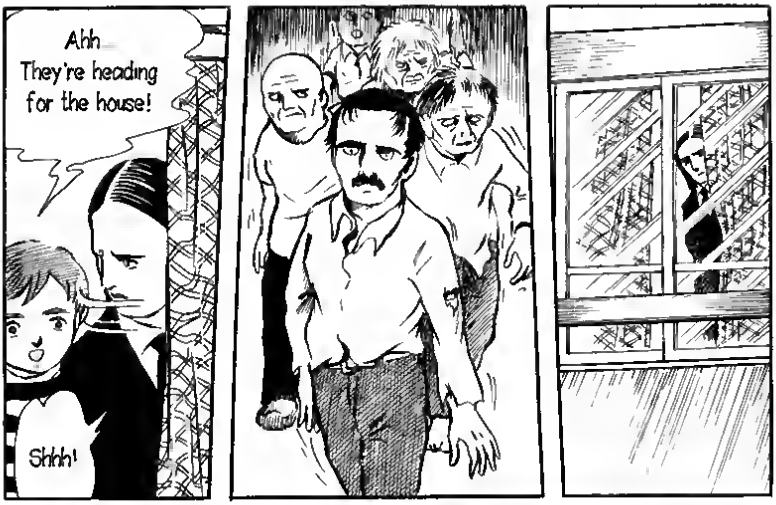
His mind...?

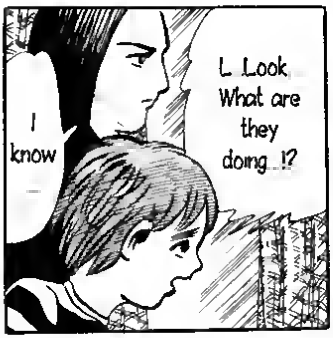

It's just little things Like, he'd forgotten about everyday things, and couldn't walk properly...
What do you mean that his mind hasn't come back!?
to rob graves. I don't know why, but he's been stealing bones and bringing the dead back to life...
You've done a terrible thing. Are you aware of the story of Saigyo in the "Senjusho"?
So you're saying he wasn't acting human!?
B...But he's...
Listen. The Soul Return Spell could never bring the spirits of the dead back
It can only reanimate the body. An empty husk of a body without a soul...
When Saigyo was on Mt. Koya, he felt lonely from his solitary ascetic practice. So he used the Soul Return Spell he had heard of a long time before to create human beings out of bones. However... Those humans lacked a human heart, and in fact, any sense of humanity.

No, he's my husband! He's my...
That's not your husband! Something else has entered him!
You're wrong! He's come back to life...!
That's not my dad!
Hiro-shi!
It's not my dad... They're all...
Where's your TV?
What about the school...?
They all mixed together! I don't know what hap-pened!
Were you listening in, Hiroshi!?
Mom... The school... They did this!

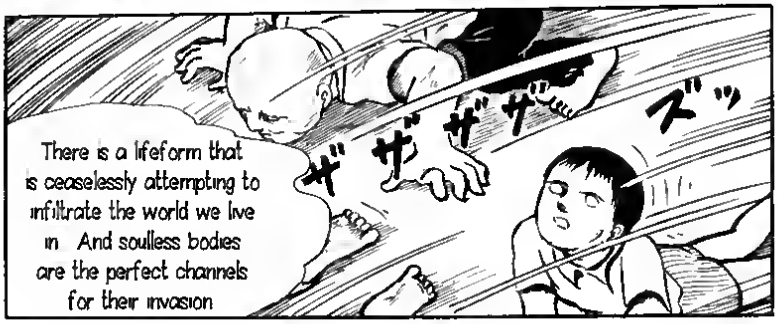
...The students of Iwabuchi Elementary School are still missing. The police are responding to this incident...
So it's just the school for now... But who knows what's next...?

They're coming!


Ahh
They're heading for the house!
Shhh!

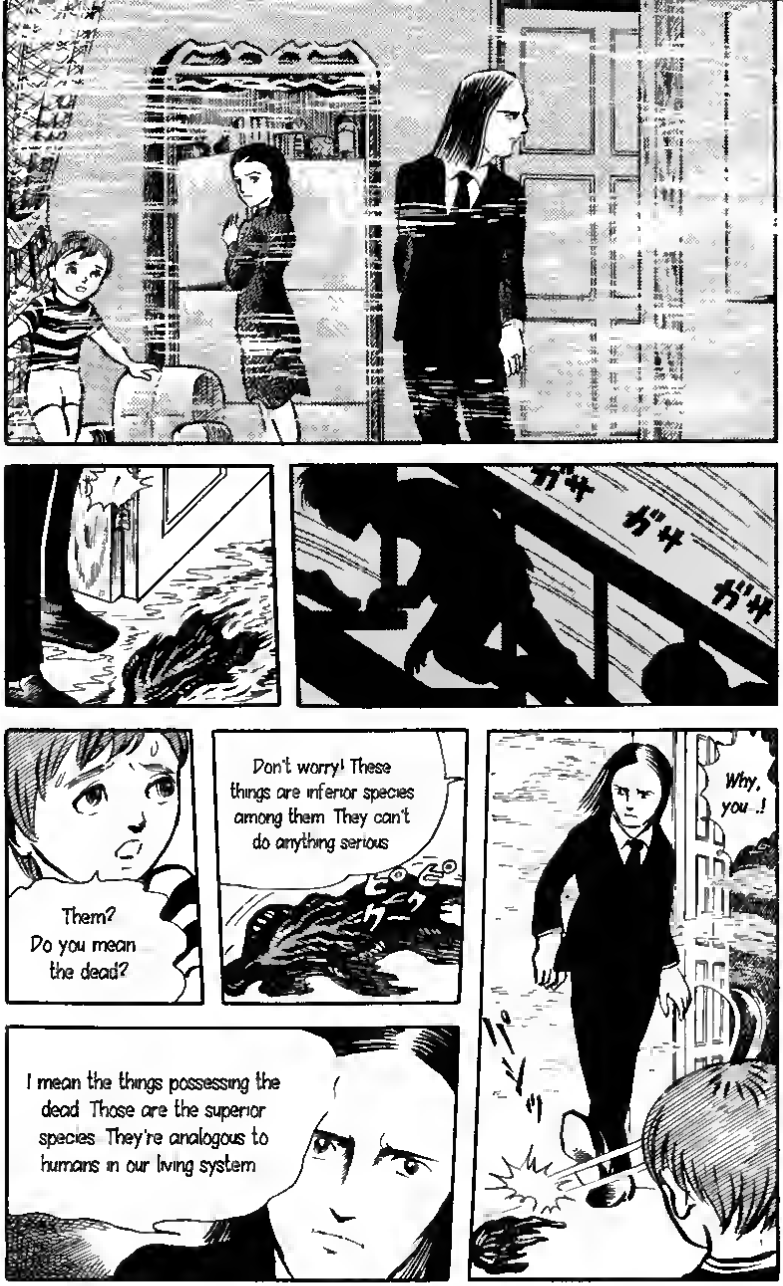

I know
L Look
What are they doing !?

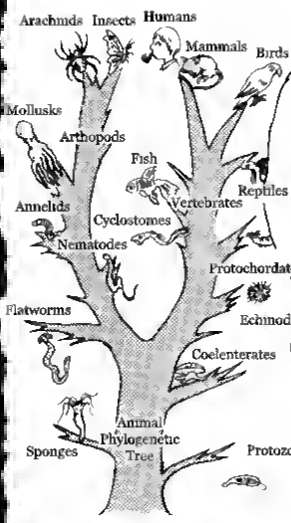
Ahhh !


There is a lifeform that is ceaselessly attempting to infiltrate the world we live in And soulless bodies are the perfect channels for their invasion
ザザザザ
ズッ

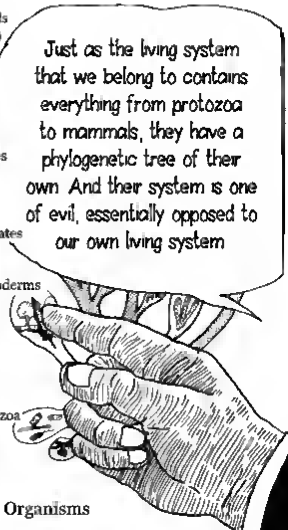
They may be disguising themselves as humans, but look what they do when no one is around!
And that's why... monsters such as vampires and werewolves have been born in countries that practice burial, while in Japan... the custom of cremation has prevented that
They're all walking in a similar way to their old forms. That is their true nature!
You don't have to worry. I have a secret medicine I obtained from Mt. Koya. I think it will nullify the effect of the arsenic glass
They're coming in the house!

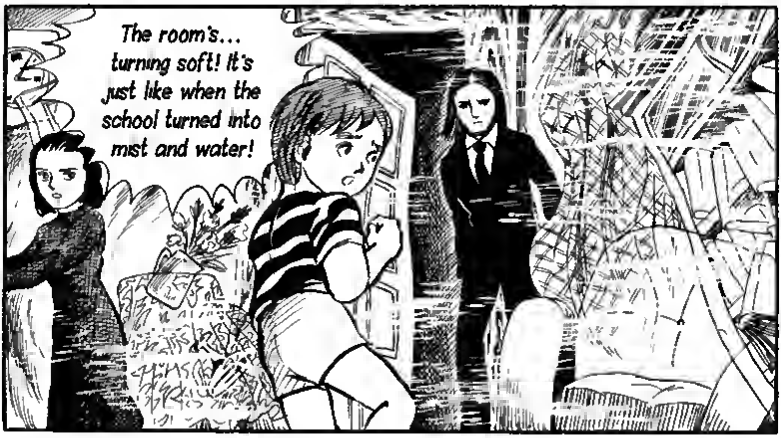
パタン
Ahh! The room's filling with mist !
ザザザザザッ


ガサ
ガサ
ガサ
Them? Do you mean the dead?
Don't worry! These things are inferior species among them. They can't do anything serious
ヒーヒー
カーン
I mean the things possessing the dead. Those are the superior species. They're analogous to humans in our living system
Why, you..!



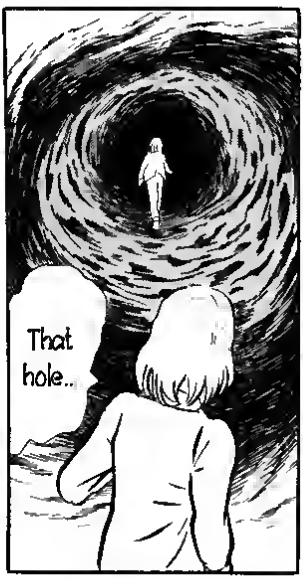
Phylogenetic Tree of Legitimate Organisms

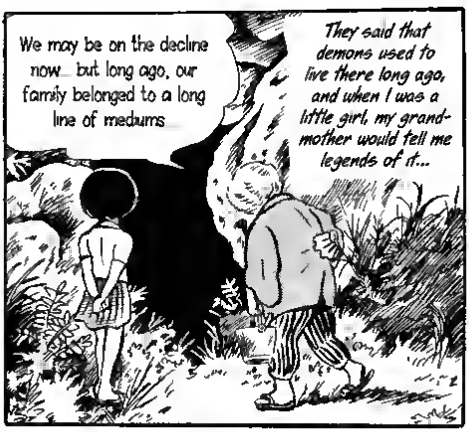

Just as the living system that we belong to contains everything from protozoa to mammals, they have a phylogenetic tree of their own. And their system is one of evil, essentially opposed to our own living system.

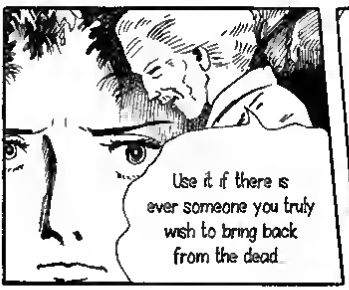


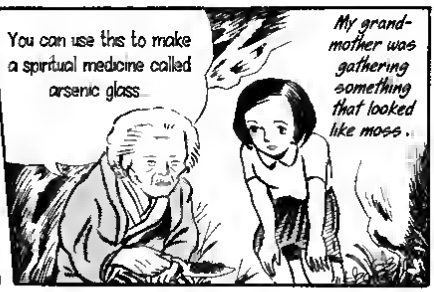
Ah... Is that...
You two get out of the house! It's too dangerous here!
Damn! They must be after...!
Hmm
It looks just like the hole I saw in Hiruko Burial Mound..!
I see. So this is where she used the Soul Return Spell... But what's that hole?

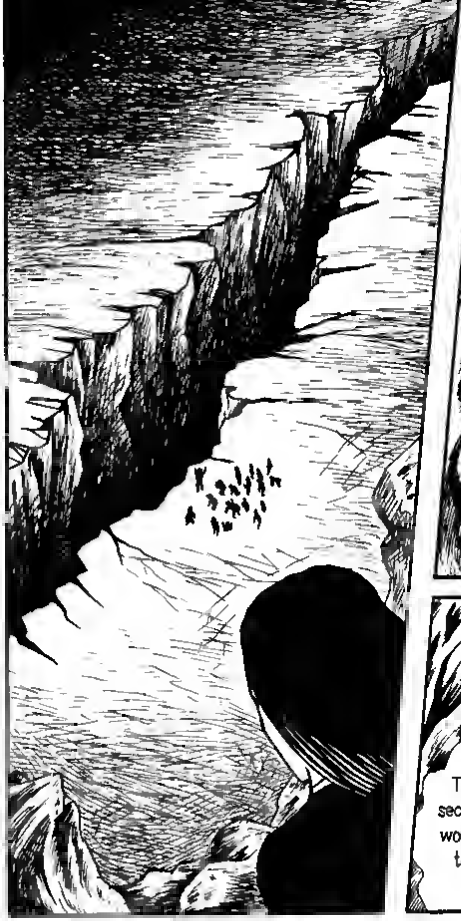
It looks just like Demon's Grotto in my hometown.

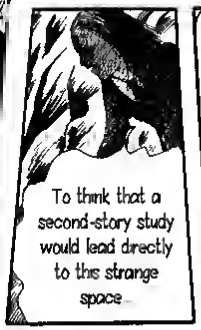

That hole...


We may be on the decline now... but long ago, our family belonged to a long line of mediums.
They said that demons used to live there long ago, and when I was a little girl, my grandmother would tell me legends of it...

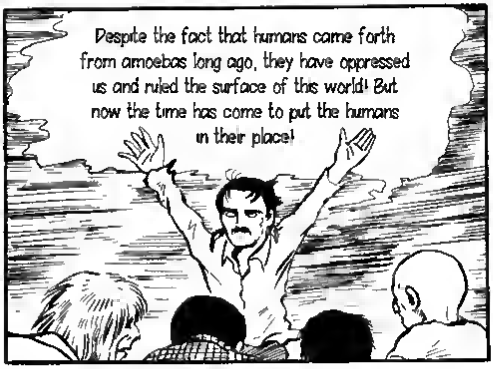

Use it if there is ever someone you truly wish to bring back from the dead.

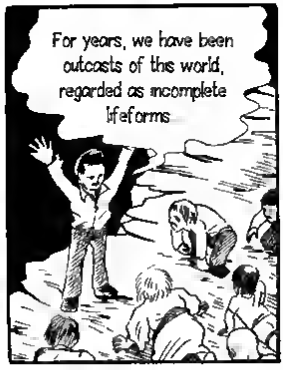

You can use this to make a spiritual medicine called arsenic gloss.
My grandmother was gathering something that looked like moss.




To think that a second-story study would lead directly to this strange space

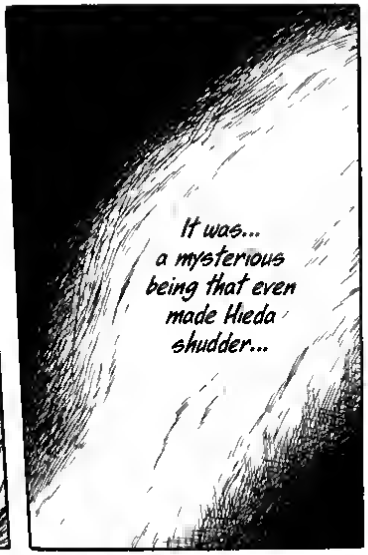
What kind of space am I in now..? I should be right under the house


Despite the fact that humans came forth from amoebas long ago, they have oppressed us and ruled the surface of this world! But now the time has come to put the humans in their place!


For years, we have been outcasts of this world, regarded as incomplete lifeforms

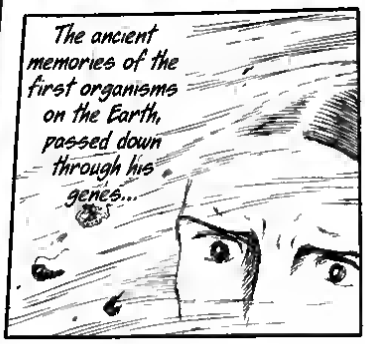
Hieda saw just a fragment of something unspeakably massive!
Now, let us pray! Let us awaken He who gave birth to us, and all things on the surface, from his long slumber!!
There's definitely something in that deep chasm!
There's some-thing there!
...And let us bring back the peace of primordial chaos..
And in that dreadful abyss that seemed to go down to Hell itself.

O great god of primordial chaos... Father of Hiruko, and father of all living things and pseudo-organisms... Grrrrrrrrrr!


It was... a mysterious being that even made Hieda shudder...

It was a massive superorganism that existed with the birth of the Earth! In Japan, they called it, Ame-no-Minakanushi... And in the Bible, they called it Jehovah!

Ahhh... That's...
And when he saw it, something awakened within Hieda's mind...


The ancient memories of the first organisms on the Earth, passed down through his genes...

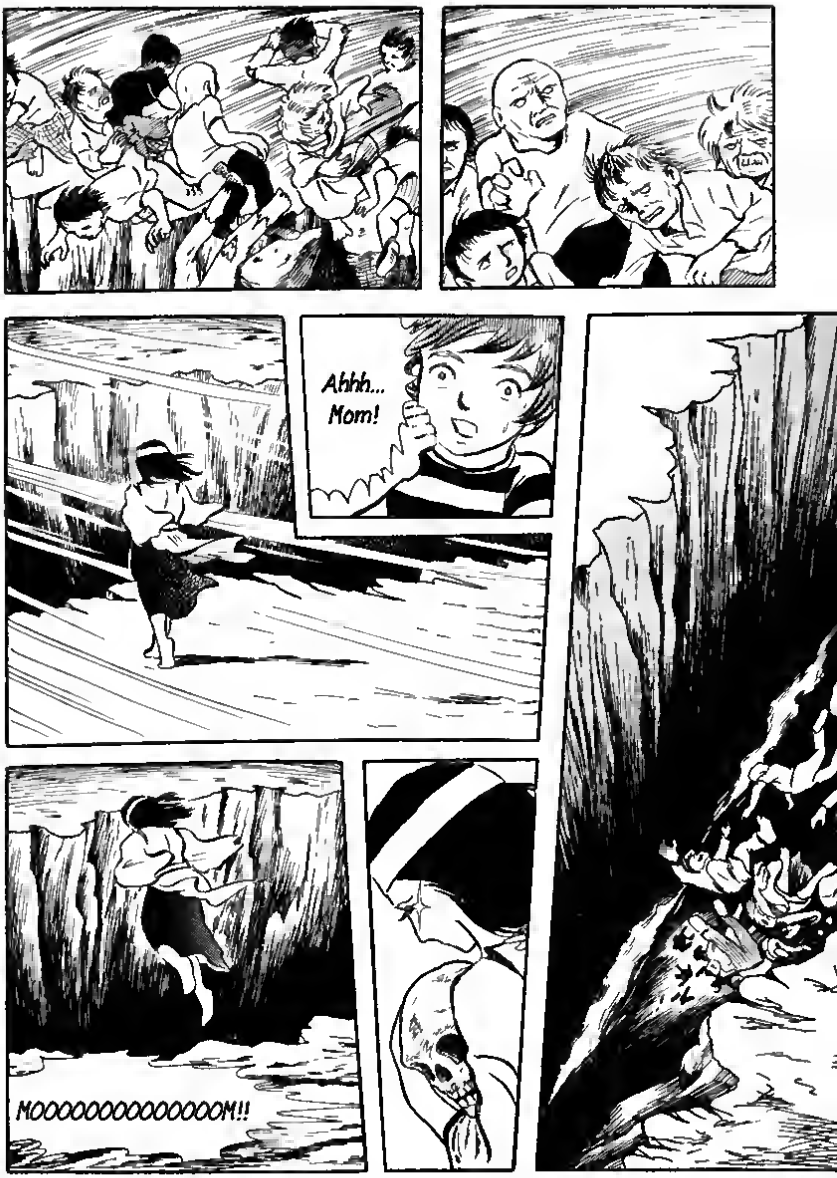
From Io in New Zealand, to Tanaloma of Polynesia, every nation's mythology speaks of the first god of this world...
And this superorganism, when the world was still in chaos, gave birth to the first organisms, and the ancestors of the pseudo-organisms known as Yokai!
Oh, no! If that awakens
ゴゴゴゴ
ズズ...
Grr Grrr O great god! Awaken, and bring chaos to this world once more!
ムクリ...

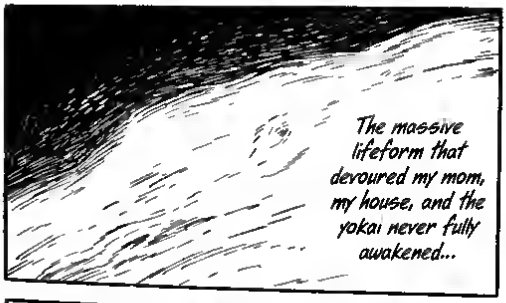
I'm sorry, Mr Hieda, but that's just plain nitrate I replaced it with your medicine
Hohhhhhhhohhoh... hohoho
I have the medi-cine!
I saw my mom hiding it! It's right here!
And as long as he takes my husband's form, I will not let you have your way!
Ma'am, you're...
I share the blood of a proud line of mediums! And that is my husband!

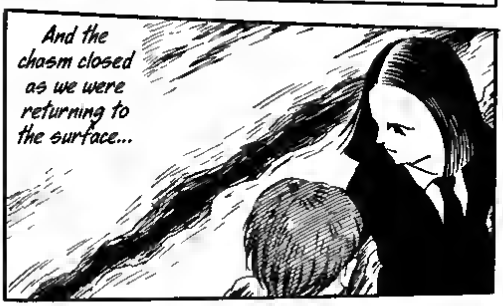
No, don't let him have it!
Give it to me!
H... How could you do this!?
G...G... G...rrrrr...
That's not my dad! Don't go, Mom!
G... rrrr rr...
How could you do this!? That's your own father!
while our clan is forced to live in the shadows of the Earth...?
Why must your lifeforms be allowed to live at leisure on the surface...

Now is the time to return this entire world to chaos
Honey!
He's cursing the fact that he wasn't born as a proper being
And what is wrong with that?
Honey
G..RRR...
GRRRRRR...
...NNNGH...!
ズル
Ahh Hh..

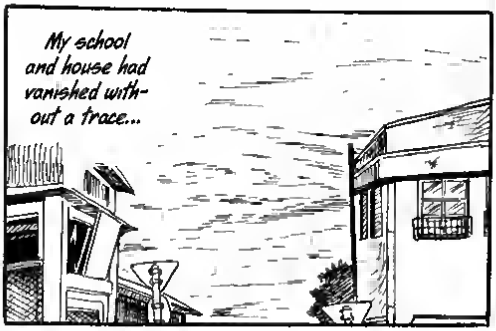
カラ
カラーン
...ggg
gg...g...
NNNNN
...!!
AIIII
EEEE
EEEE
EEEE
EE...
フゥ...
Honey

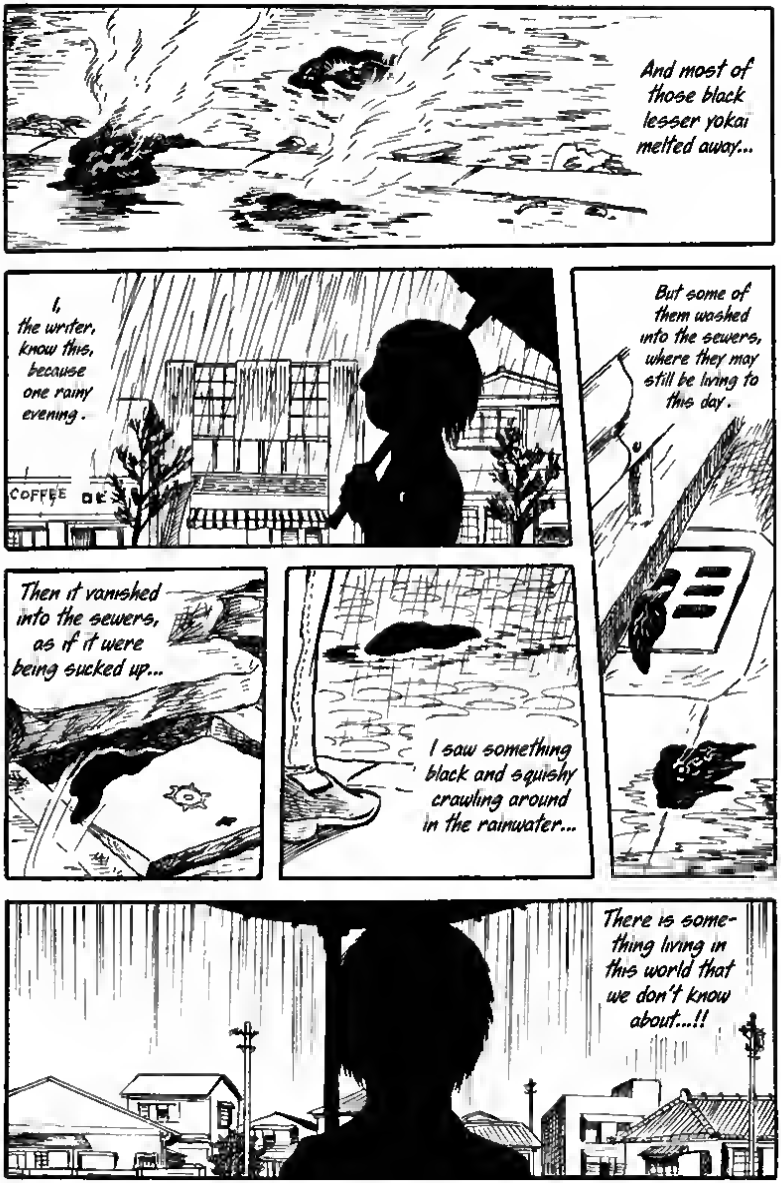

Ahhh...
Mom!
MOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!!





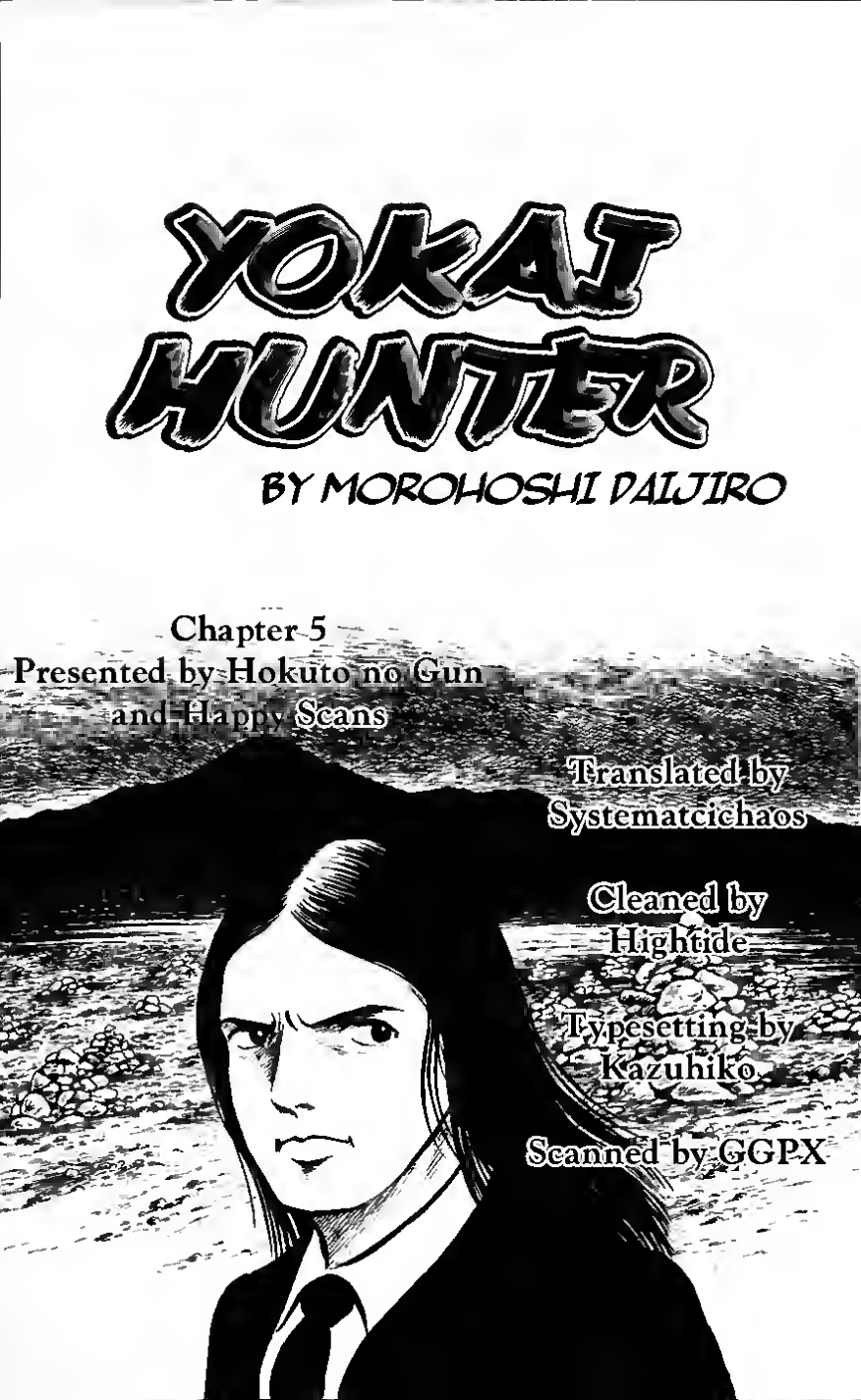
Then... Mr. Hieda set off for yet another place...

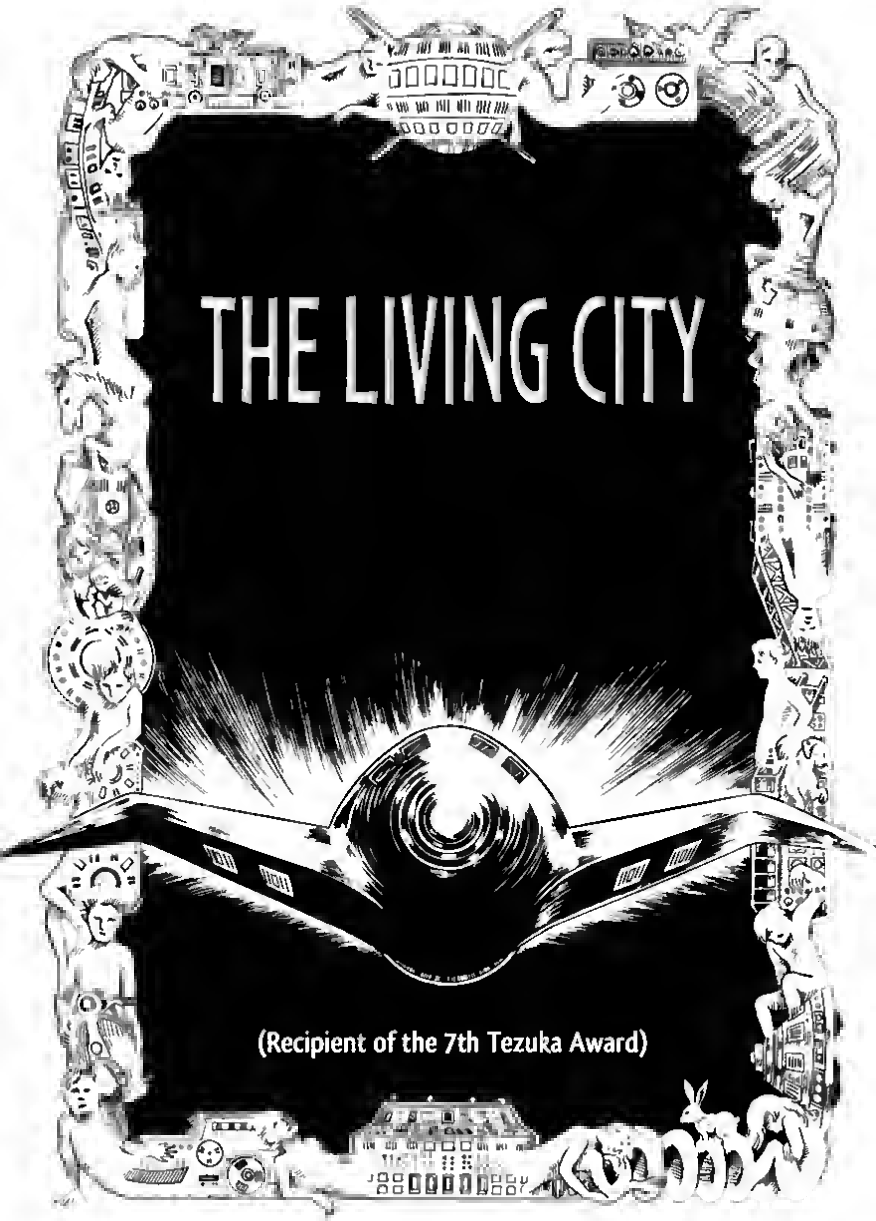



And most of those black lesser yokai melted away...
I, the writer, know this, because one rainy evening.
COFFEE
But some of them washed into the sewers, where they may still be living to this day.
Then it vanished into the sewers, as if it were being sucked up...
I saw something black and squishy crawling around in the rainwater...
There is something living in this world that we don't know about...!!

YOKAI HUNTER

BY MOROHOSHI DAIJIRO




THE LIVING CITY
(Recipient of the 7th Tezuka Award)

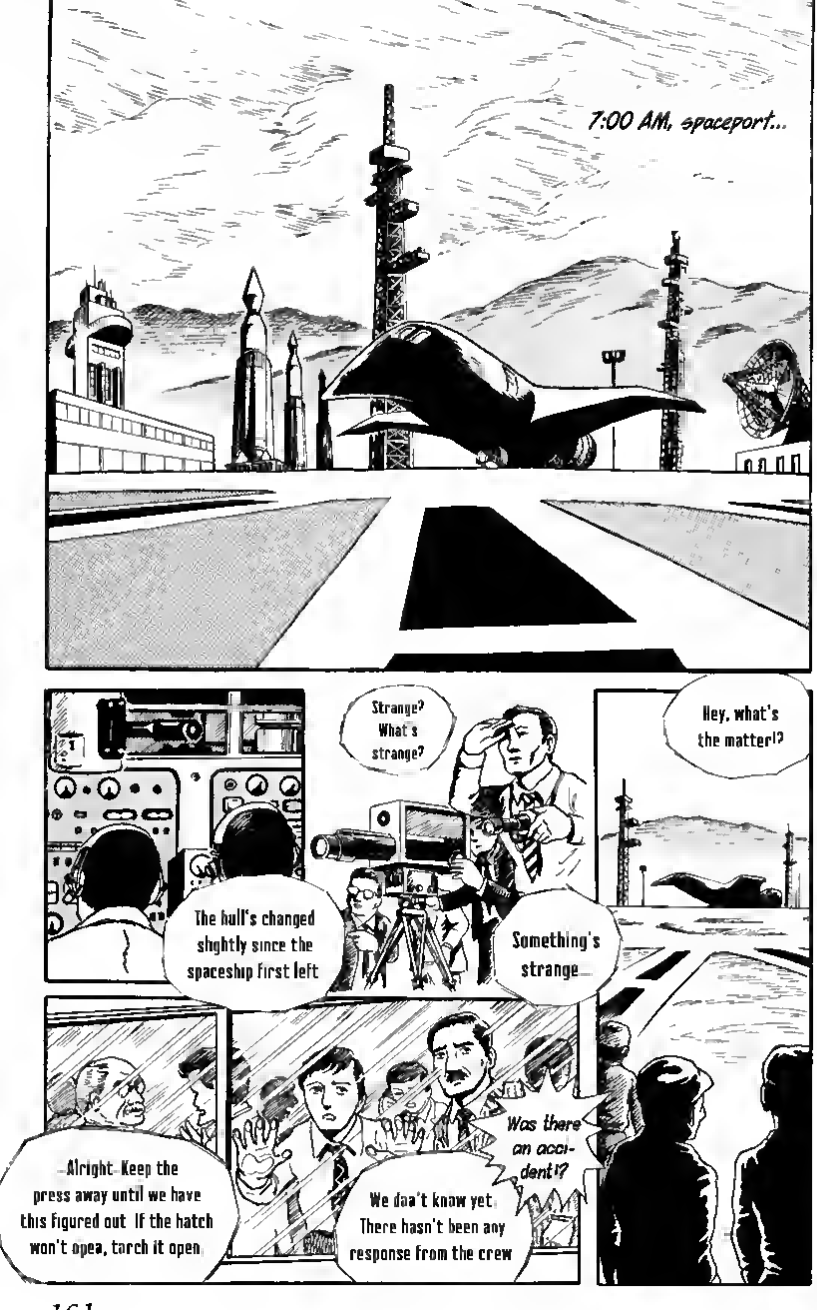
Summer, 198X

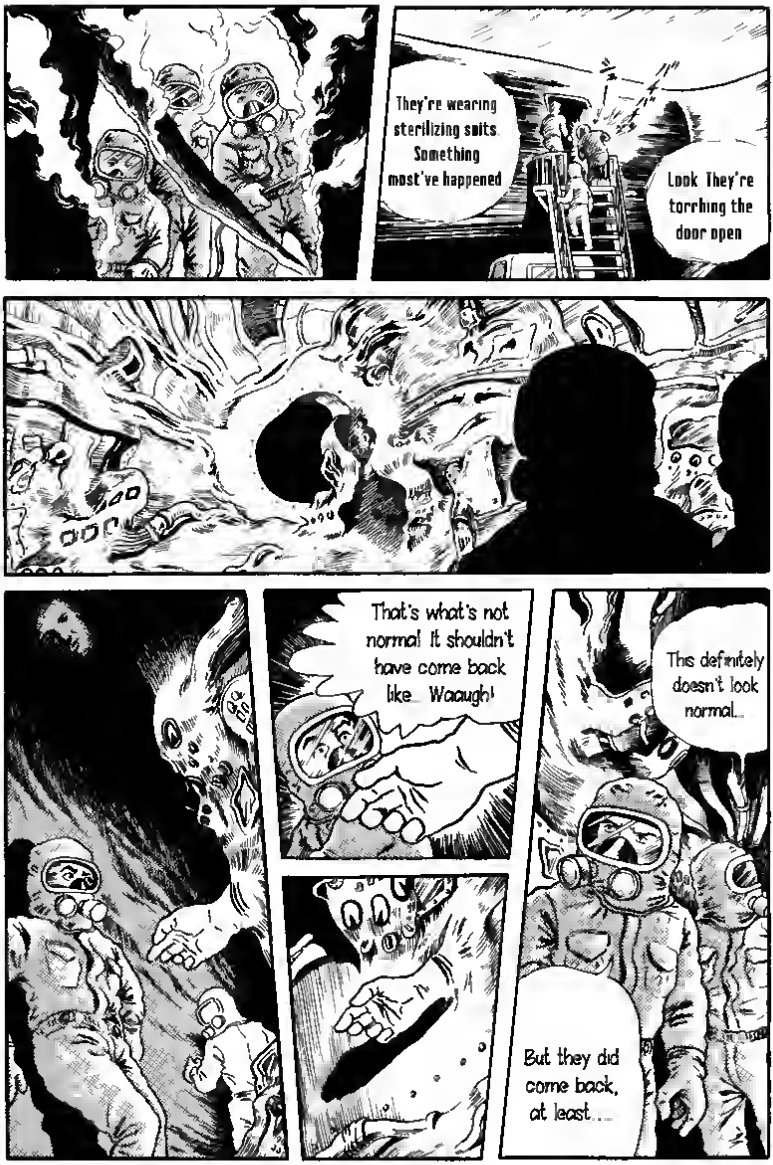
That must be it! It's back!

I'm done with fishing! I'm gonna go see the spaceship!

Today's the day that the spaceship comes back from lo! I'm gonna ask Dad to take me to see it!

Hey, Hiro You catch anything?


7:00 AM, spaceport...
Strange? What's strange?
Hey, what's the matter!?
The hull's changed slightly since the spaceship first left
Something's strange...
Was there an accident?
We don't know yet. There hasn't been any response from the crew
Alright. Keep the press away until we have this figured out. If the hatch won't open, torch it open.

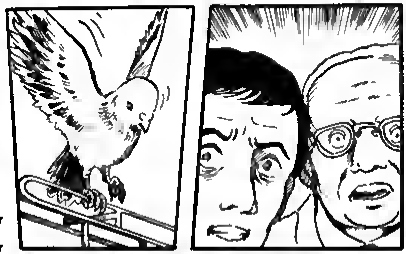

They're wearing sterilizing suits. Something must've happened
Look. They're torching the door open
That's what's not normal! It shouldn't have come back like... Waaugh!
This definitely doesn't look normal...
But they did come back, at least...

No, no, no! That's no place for children! Stay inside!
O-Ow, ow, ow... My nerves are hurting again. Are you going off somewhere?
I'm gonna go find Dad... to see the spaceship!
Is that you, Hiroaki? Were you out seeing that yokel again?
He's an oddball that lives in a shack by the riverside. I told you to stay away from him.
I was fishing, Grandpa
WAAAAAAAUGH! WAAAAAAAUGH!!
Ow, ow, ow My hips are hurting again Hiroaki, go get some water from the kitchen
Sometimes, I just wanna shrug off this old, decrepit body But I'm scared to die... Not like you'd understand...

A-A-Ahhhh...
H-Help...

W...WAAAAAAAAAAAUGH!

Sakamoto
Are they doing
live coverage of
the spaceport
on the TV?



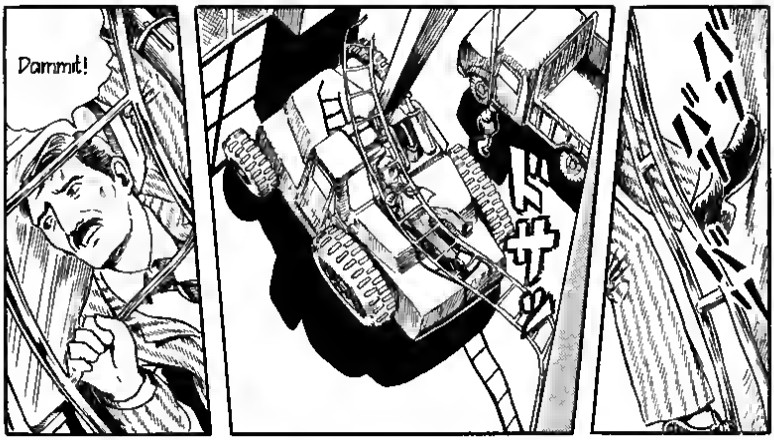
Yeah, Professor, but
something's odd. There
seems to have been some
kind of incident. The screen
suddenly cut off—
We apologize for
the interruption.
Please stand by—

We got a call from the spaceport, but it got cut off... Something's not right...
None of them have come to work yet. Did something happen?
Contact the director and the head scientists of each field immediately
The commercial stations aren't covering it. There's been a lot less spaceships these days, after all. Even though this was the first study of Io...
What about the other stations?
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
The spaceport is at the foot of the mountain, five kilometers from Kawami. 8:00 AM...
It's a little far away, but it shouldn't be long by bike
I've always wanted to see this. The Io explorer, Hermes III...

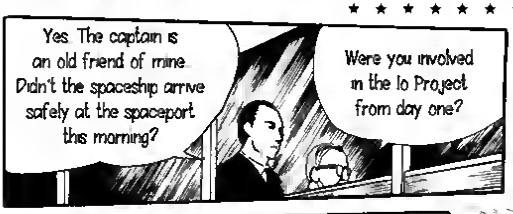
That door won't open, anyway it's only a matter of time before it spreads here...
Don't touch the door!
A Ahhhh Ahhhh Ahh...
I-I-I can't o...

Hirooka... I hope he doesn't try to come today. He'd always wanted to see the spaceship.
It's taken out most of the buildings and staff now. The concrete seems to be lasting for now, but this whole area's gonna be... What the hell is that thing!?
Huh...? A flat tire?
I'd better leave it here and walk the rest of the way. I can get Dad to pick it up on the way home.

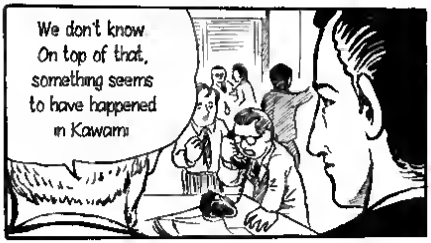
Please keep away from the building!
Bird?
The bird...
Was it sulfuric acid?
The workers say... that something's going on inside...
AIIIEEEEEEEEEE!
What happened here...? Was there a fire?
No telling Word is, the factory melted...
Mommy, my hand it won't move!
Katsuo, what's wrong!? Somebody... Somebody do something...!
Urk!


Dammit!
バリバリ

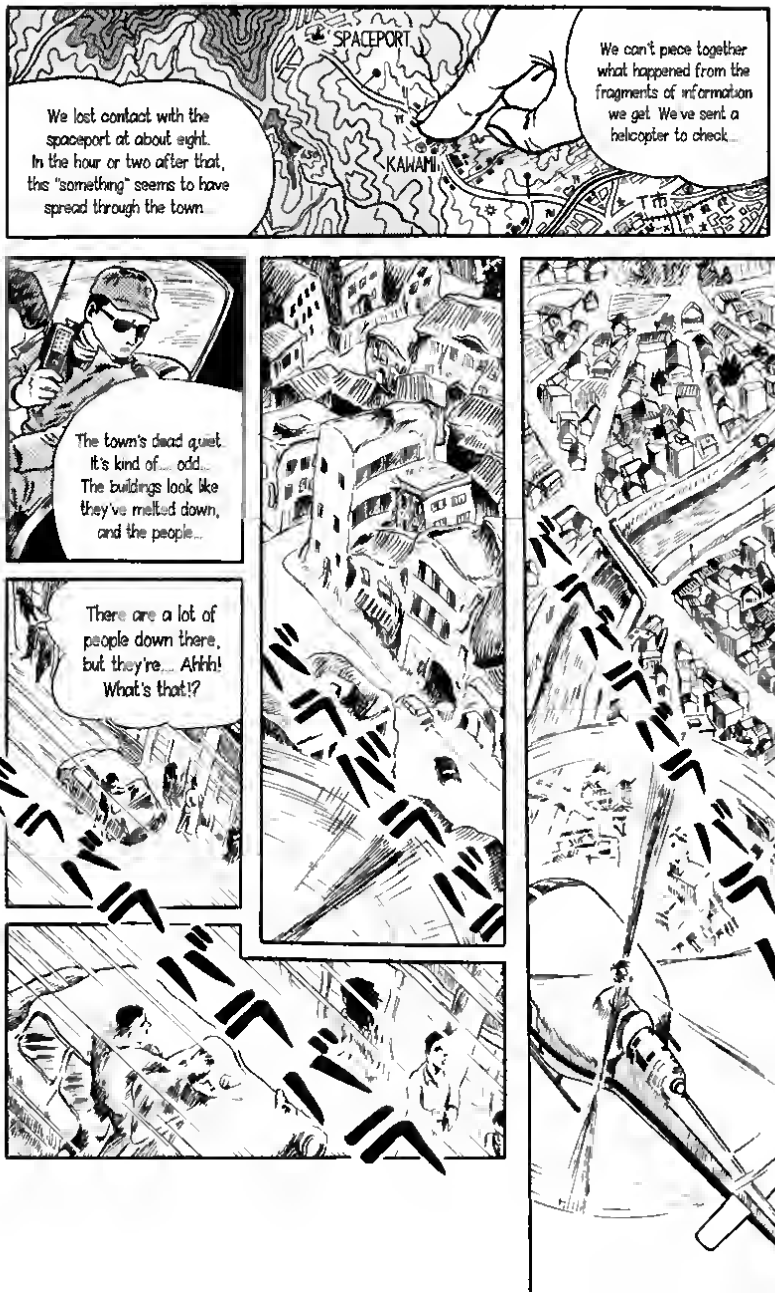
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★


Yes. The captain is an old friend of mine. Didn't the spaceship arrive safely at the spaceport this morning?
Were you involved in the Io Project from day one?

Was there an accident? Or worse?
It landed at the spaceport at about seven. After that, we lost contact.


We don't know. On top of that, something seems to have happened in Kawami.

T----- City is the closest city to the spaceport and Kawami. There is a laboratory here that is connected to the space development center. 10:00 AM...
What's all this commotion so early in the morning...?


We lost contact with the spaceport at about eight. In the hour or two after that, this "something" seems to have spread through the town.
SPACEPORT
KAWAMI
We can't piece together what happened from the fragments of information we get. We've sent a helicopter to check...
The town's dead quiet. It's kind of... odd... The buildings look like they've melted down, and the people...
There are a lot of people down there, but they're... Ahhh! What's that!?

That highway's usually busy with cars heading to the spaceport...
That's strange
Ah! Another police car!
Move... Come on, move...!

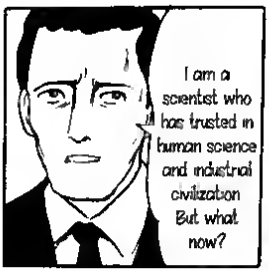
I have to get to town. They're taking over my consciousness. I have to get there before that.
This is a truly astonishing phenomenon! Look! The dog and the bicycle are completely fused! They're impossible to separate!
This is astonishing!
It's not coming off
Throw it over, rope and all
Correct! All metal and machinery are affected by this phenomenon!
Ahhh... Ahhh! Professor! It's melting in!
And yet the dog's still alive! Let's try putting this radio by it.

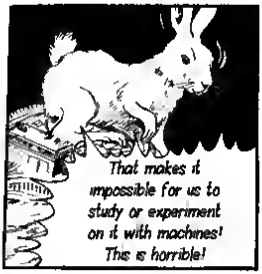
Humans!? Then was Kawami...?
That's right. It apparently requires a considerable quantity of metals before it can completely absorb humans... But even the slightest touch...

That's what's so strange about this. It eventually encroaches on and absorbs nonmetals. Even dogs and humans.
Watch. Let's try a rabbit this time.

Radios, clocks, iron, aluminum, glass, and even rubber... And the more complex the machine, the quicker it is!
It's affecting the ground below it, too! Only slightly, where it's touching the ground...

We can't even touch this bizarre incident with a pair of tweezers...

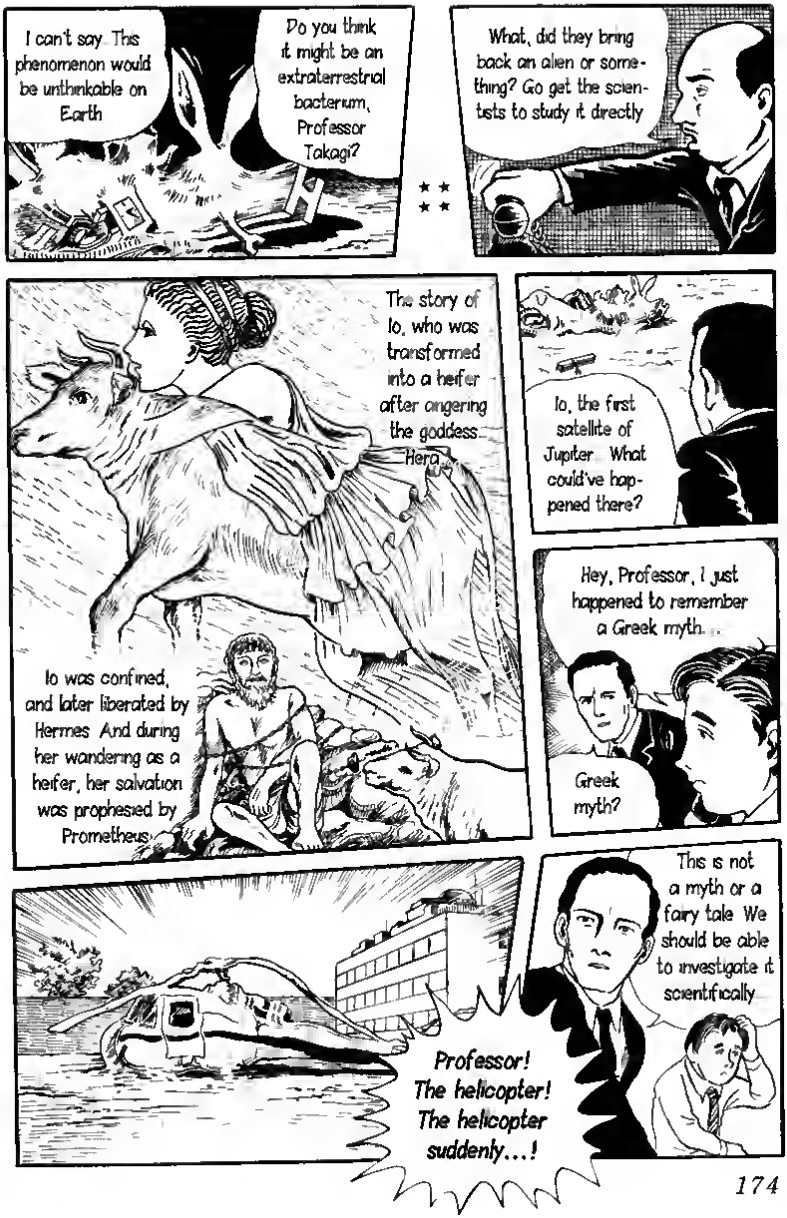

I am a scientist who has trusted in human science and industrial civilization. But what now?

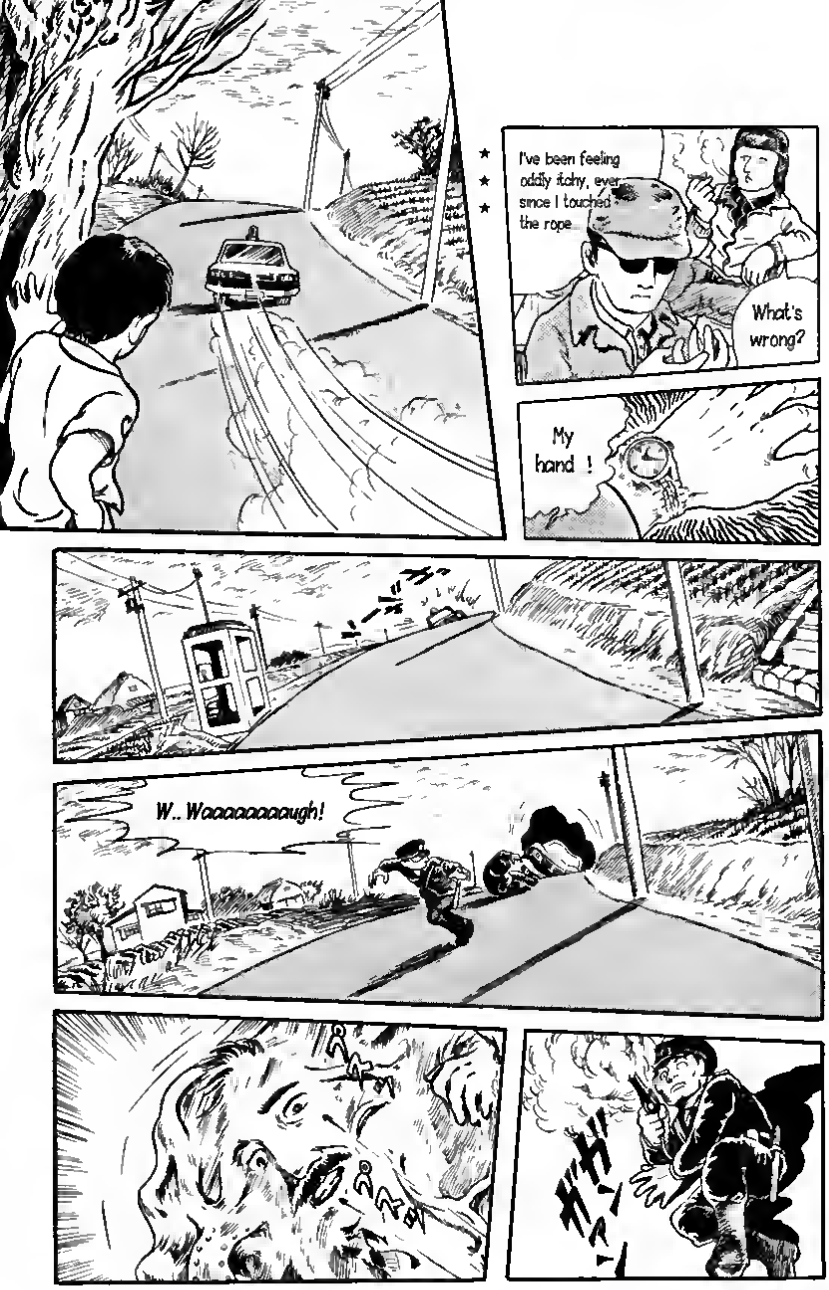

That makes it impossible for us to study or experiment on it with machines! This is horrible!

None of them have come back. We got a report from the space laboratory saying that this was caused by the spaceship that just got back from Io...
What?

It looks like the commotion in Kawami is no ordinary thing.
What is it?
What happened to the police cars we sent to investigate?

Meanwhile, the T----- City police were finally starting to realize the gravity of the situation...


I can't say. This phenomenon would be unthinkable on Earth
Do you think it might be an extraterrestrial bacterium, Professor Takagi?
What, did they bring back an alien or something? Go get the scientists to study it directly
The story of Io, who was transformed into a heifer after angering the goddess Hera...
Io was confined, and later liberated by Hermes. And during her wandering as a heifer, her salvation was prophesied by Prometheus.
Io, the first satellite of Jupiter. What could've happened there?
Hey, Professor, I just happened to remember a Greek myth...
Greek myth?
This is not a myth or a fairy tale. We should be able to investigate it scientifically
Professor! The helicopter! The helicopter suddenly...!


I've been feeling oddly itchy, ever since I touched the rope.
What's wrong?
My hand !
W.. Waaaaaaaaugh!

WAAAAAAA
AAAAUGH...
Hel...
What's the matter, Chief?
Hello, headquarters? Hello? Hello?
Chief!!

The phone lines!?
It's been transmitted through the phone lines! And at a terrifying pace!
Professor! They've got the telephone company and police station now! It's starting to spread in the city...!
Phone lines... That's right. Phone lines, power lines, water pipes, gas pipes... All of them are routes of transmission! There's no way we can keep the from spreading across Japan...
This phenomenon should be impossible. No matter how I think about it, organic matter should not be able to fuse with inorganic matter and stay alive
Professor?
Professor, did you hear that? They'll be here soon...
ガチャッ
They're already here. It's too late
Professor! Did you use that microscope? But you knew machines were dangerous...!
They are no longer biological or mineral. They are the same unknown substance... An unknown monster!

Professor
Time is of the essence. But science might... lose
Dammit, I'm gonna get to the bottom of this! What the hell did they bring back from Io!?
Science? Lose...?
I can't take a car! That's it! There's a farm out that way!

D
Dad...?
Hiroaki...
Stay back! Don't go near the road!
Run somewhere where there's no machinery or metal. Now, go!
Dad...
Take off everything metal on your person. Your belt, your buttons, your fountain pen... Then run. Run as far away from town as you can...
Listen to me. There is a terrible disease spreading. It's already taken the town. It's too late for me, but not for you...
I said go!

I want to sleep like the others... and live in this brave new world...
This is for the best... I'm tired now...
Hurry!
カッ
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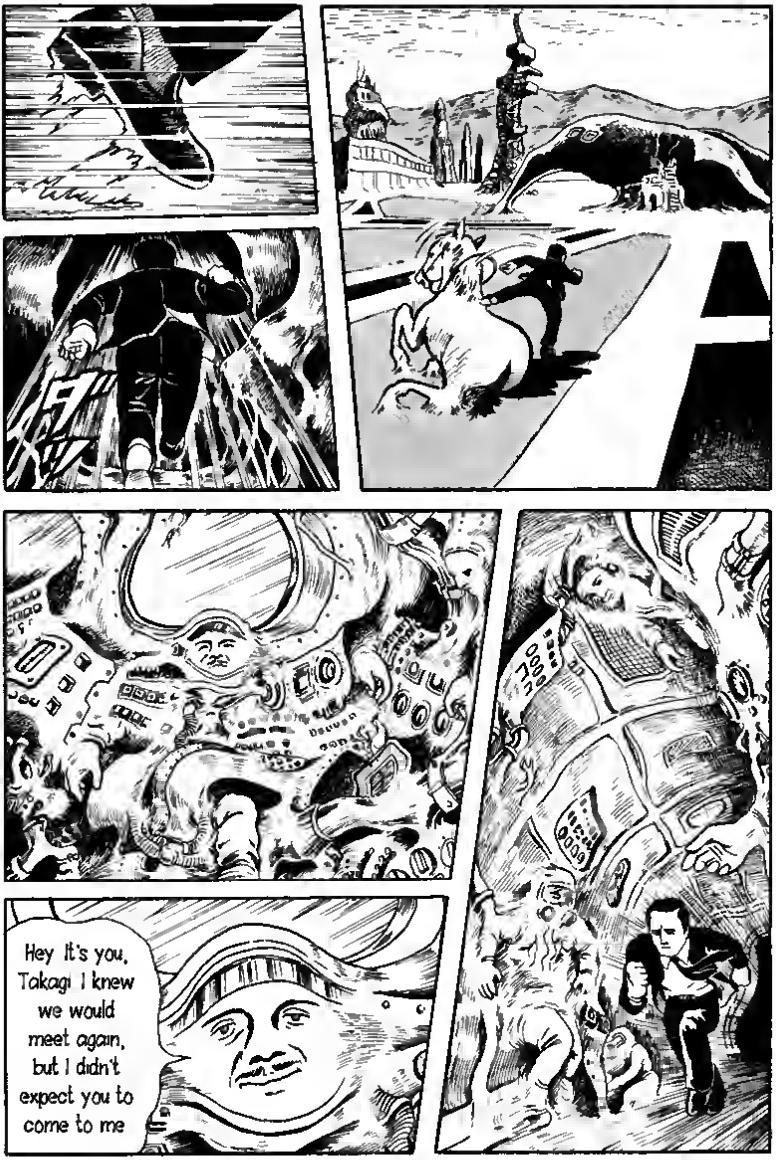
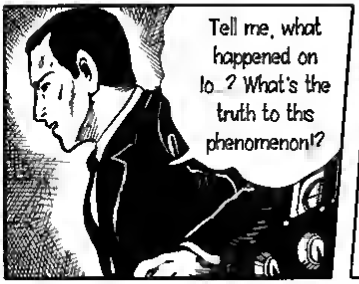
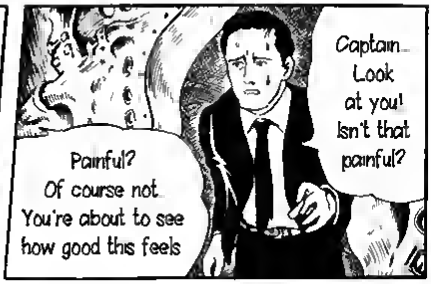
Hang on! We're almost there!
That's right! The horse-shoes! It's being infected through the road!
Something's wrong with my horse
It's the space-port!

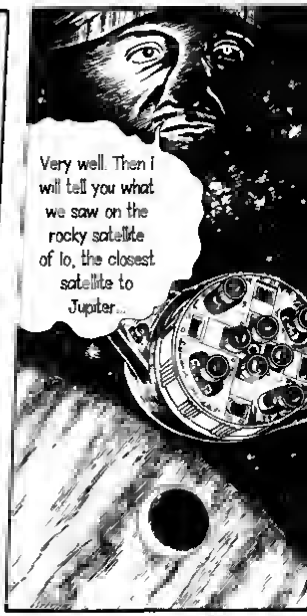

Hey it's you, Takagi I knew we would meet again, but I didn't expect you to come to me


Tell me, what happened on Io...? What's the truth to this phenomenon!?

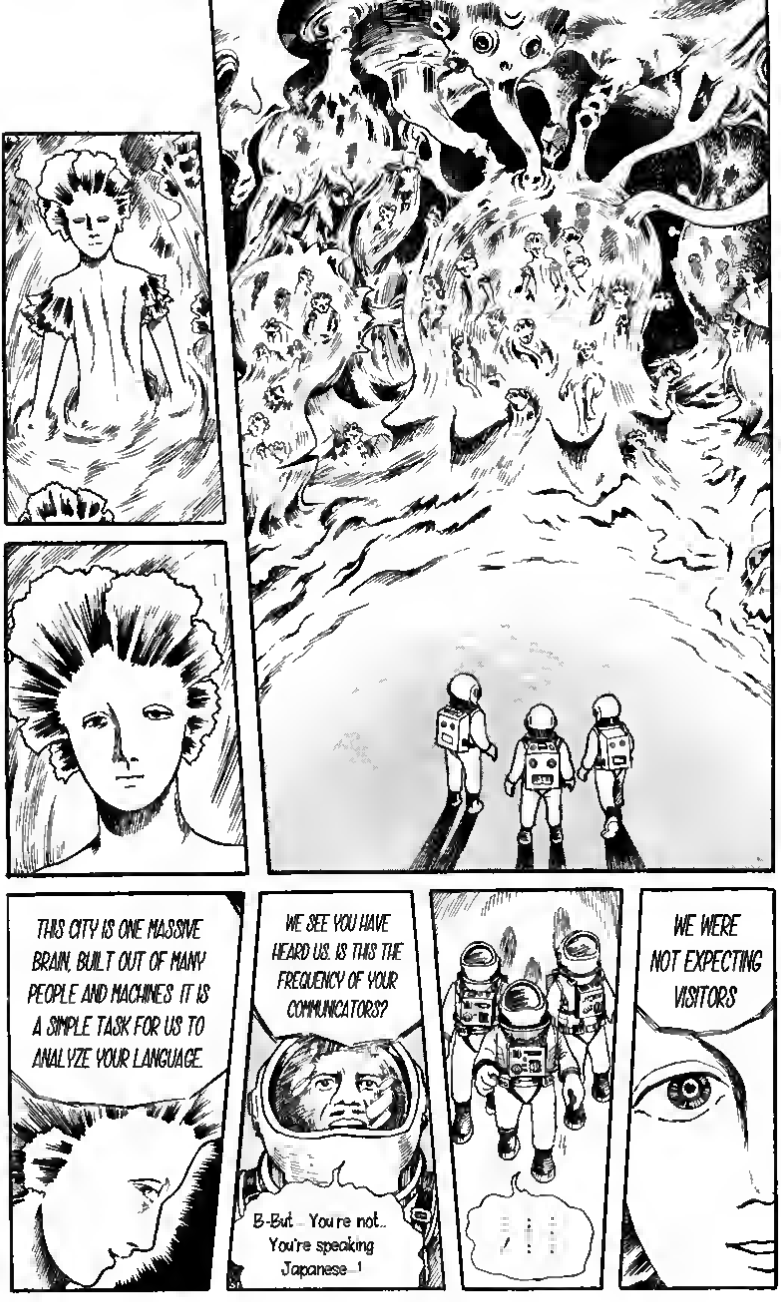

Captain... Look at you! Isn't that painful?
Painful? Of course not. You're about to see how good this feels

There is no need to panic. You will understand it all once you have become a part of us, for you will share our knowledge.
Tell me now! I came here to find that out! Will science really lose!?

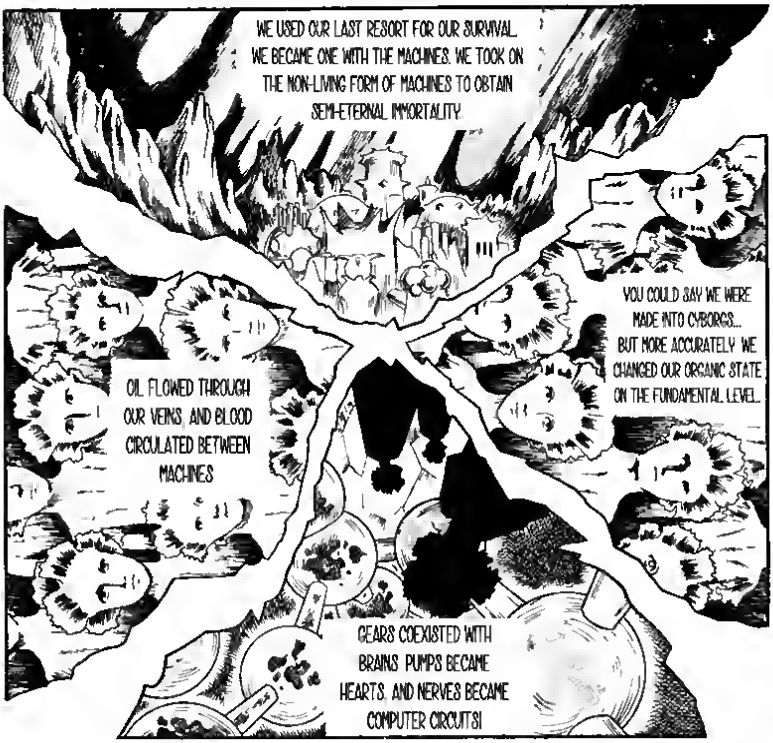
We came to a valley, where we discovered what we thought at first was a massive and bizarre ruin site.

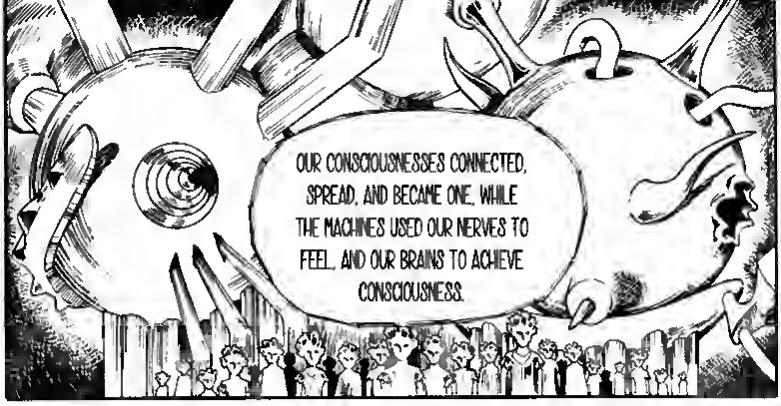

Very well. Then I will tell you what we saw on the rocky satellite of Io, the closest satellite to Jupiter...

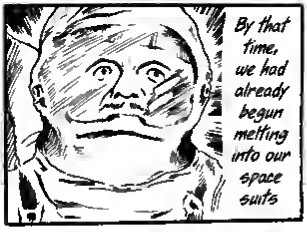
It's moving, though extremely slowly. It's still
Captain!
They were the ruins of a massive industrial civilization, melted by heat! Or so we thought
Captain, look!
Yes. Then there was the dim light. This ancient city was alive!
If we weren't wearing space suits, we would have felt its warmth.


THIS CITY IS ONE MASSIVE BRAIN, BUILT OUT OF MANY PEOPLE AND MACHINES. IT IS A SIMPLE TASK FOR US TO ANALYZE YOUR LANGUAGE.
WE SEE YOU HAVE HEARD US. IS THIS THE FREQUENCY OF YOUR COMMUNICATORS?
B-But... You're not.. You're speaking Japanese...!
WE WERE NOT EXPECTING VISITORS

BILLIONS OF YEARS AGO (BY THIS MOON'S CYCLE), IO WAS HOME TO A HIGHLY-ADVANCED CIVILIZATION. BUT SUDDENLY, THE MOON COOLED, AND WE WERE DRIVEN TO THIS VALLEY. KNOWING STILL THAT WE COULD NOT LIVE HERE FOR MUCH LONGER...
The people of that planet... No, the city itself told us this.


WE USED OUR LAST RESORT FOR OUR SURVIVAL. WE BECAME ONE WITH THE MACHINES. WE TOOK ON THE NON-LIVING FORM OF MACHINES TO OBTAIN SEMI-ETERNAL IMMORTALITY.
YOU COULD SAY WE WERE MADE INTO CYBORGS... BUT MORE ACCURATELY, WE CHANGED OUR ORGANIC STATE ON THE FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL.
OIL FLOWED THROUGH OUR VEINS, AND BLOOD CIRCULATED BETWEEN MACHINES
GEARS COEXISTED WITH BRAINS. PUMPS BECAME HEARTS, AND NERVES BECAME COMPUTER CIRCUITS!

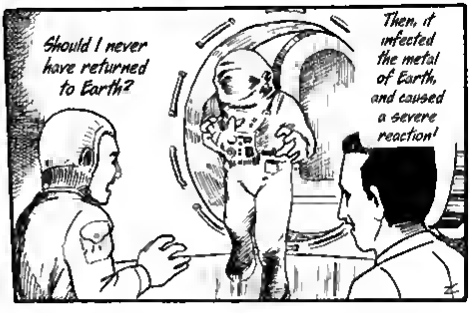

OUR CONSCIOUSNESSES CONNECTED, SPREAD, AND BECAME ONE. WHILE THE MACHINES USED OUR NERVES TO FEEL, AND OUR BRAINS TO ACHIEVE CONSCIOUSNESS.

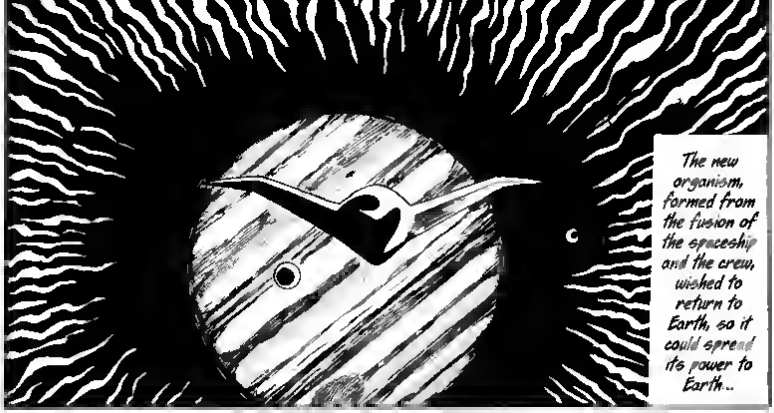

By that time, we had already begun melting into our space suits

THIS WAS THE BIRTH OF A COMPLETE COLLECTIVE OF ALL RESIDENTS AND MACHINES OF IO... A MASSIVE NEW ORGANISM!

I was the only one who returned to the ship. I don't know how they did it...

But by that point, the human I knew as "me" was already gone.


Should I never have returned to Earth?
Then, it infected the metal of Earth, and caused a severe reaction!


The new organism, formed from the fusion of the spaceship and the crew, wished to return to Earth, so it could spread its power to Earth...

Exactly. We may only exist near the spaceport for now, but soon, we will all be one, and cover the entire world.
Then science... Science has not lost ?

The will of the machine is entering my mind. I can feel myself expanding endlessly...

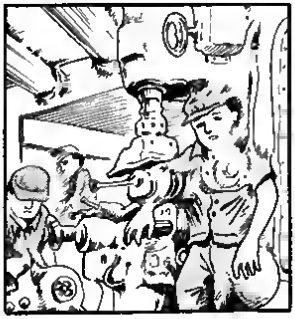
That's enough... I don't need to hear any more

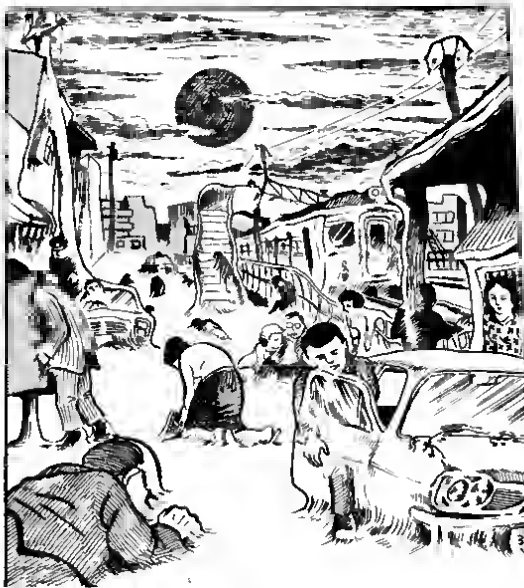
This is like a dream. A new world is coming. A utopia...

To the contrary. In this new world, scientific civilization will be perfectly united with humankind. For the first time, humanity will live in a world with no conflict, no domination, and no labor.

BAR
ハント

My hips and spine don't hurt anymore...





I've cast away my old body, and the walls and furniture have taken its place. I can still live.

Have the fish cooked yet? They may have taken all the products of civilization, but at least fire still remains
I threw away all the knives and frying pans Don't worry about a thing Humans were always meant to live in nature
The Living City - FIN
What's the matter, Hiro? You lonely?
No, it's just
I never got to see the spaceship...

ジャンプ スーパー コミックス
JUMP SUPER COMICS

妖怪ハンター

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